

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Scene magazine



**Vast renovation  
modernizing Tokyo's  
New Sanno Hotel**

Page 6



**Massive hurricane  
roars onto Florida's  
western coast**

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2004

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# Navy says four aviators dead after jet crash

Wreckage, two sets of remains discovered on Kito Io Jima island

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## Let the Games begin

Olympics open with ceremonies in Athens

Back page



AP photos

Above: The Olympic rings are shown in flames Friday during the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Right: Members of the U.S. delegation, including several women's basketball players, enter the stadium.



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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**CIA agent name leak:** New York Times reporter Judith Miller has been subpoenaed by the grand jury trying to determine who leaked the identity of a covert CIA officer, the newspaper said Friday.

Publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr. said the Times would fight the subpoena, which was issued Thursday, according to the newspaper.

Syndicated columnist Robert Novak disclosed the name of CIA officer Valerie Plame on July 14, 2003, citing two "senior administration officials" as his sources. Disclosure of an undercover official's identity can be a felony.

**Columbine shootings:** In the five years since the Columbine High School massacre, the audio tapes and diaries of the student gunmen have remained sealed from the public. Now, an appeals court has ruled they may see the light of day.

The Colorado Court of Appeals likened the materials to "a self-aggrandizing manifesto the boys might have wished, even ached, to be made public."

The videotapes, audio tapes and writings were seized when deputies gave a search warrant following Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris' attack at their school on April 20, 1999. The pair killed 12 students and a teacher before taking their own lives.

The Denver Post sought the release of the recordings in a lawsuit filed in 2002.

**9/11 commission report:** Sales for the "The 9/11 Commission Report" have topped 500,000 copies and the print run will soon top 1 million, publisher W.W. Norton said Thursday in New York.

Publication of the \$10 paperback coincided with the release July 22 of a report by a bipartisan panel on the deadliest terror attack in U.S. history on Sept. 11, 2001. Citing multiple government failures, the commission called for a national counterterrorism center headed by a Cabinet-level director to centralize intelligence efforts.

**Crementary fraud charges:** A judge rejected a request Thursday to dismiss most of the criminal charges against the former operator of a north Georgia crematory where 334 bodies were found.

Superior Court Judge James Bodford denied several motions from former Tri-State Crematory operator Ray Brent Marsh. Marsh's attorneys wanted the judge to dismiss 561 of the 787 charges.

Marsh was arrested after investigators in



**DVD fatal crash:** Erwin Petterson Jr., facing camera, receives a hug Tuesday from Jon Douglas outside Kenai Superior Court in Kenai, Alaska. Petterson was acquitted of charges he caused a fatal crash, killing two, by taking his eyes off the road while watching a movie on a DVD player mounted on his truck dashboard. Petterson had been charged in the deaths of Robert Weiser, 60, and Donna Weiser, 56, on Oct. 12, 2002.

February 2002 found heaps of decaying bodies from Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee that were supposed to be cremated at the crematory's 16-acre site.

The 561 charges the judge refused to dismiss were 122 counts of burial service fraud and 439 counts of theft by taking. Along with those charges, Marsh faces 179 counts of abuse of a body and 47 counts of making false statements.

**Philadelphia corruption probe:** The mayor of Philadelphia announced a new ethics policy for city employees Thursday, two months after his former treasurer was charged with accepting thousands of dollars worth of gifts from people interested in influencing city business decisions.

Mayor John F. Street, who signed two executive orders Thursday, banned city employees from accepting gifts, meals or favors from anyone doing business or seeking to do business with the city.

Seventeen people face charges in a feder-

al anti-corruption probe that became public in October, when an FBI listening device was discovered in Street's office.

## World

**British terror suspect:** A judge ruled Friday that a British man wanted in the United States to face terrorism charges be held in custody for another 28 days.

Judge Christopher Pratt at Bow Street Magistrates Court in London ordered that Babar Ahmad, who U.S. authorities allege used U.S.-based Web sites to recruit fighters and raise support for Taliban forces in Afghanistan, remain in custody until a further extradition hearing on Sept. 10.

**Japan nuclear accident:** A Japanese utility said Friday it will temporarily shut down all of its nuclear power facilities to conduct safety checks, following a deadly accident this week at one of its plants.

Kansai Electric Power Co., Japan's second-largest utility, reached its decision a day after being ordered by the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency to review inspection records of cooling pipes and check for signs of erosion at its nuclear power plants.

Six other Japanese utility companies were given similar orders.

Government investigators launched a probe Friday at the plant in Mihama, 200 miles west of Tokyo, where four people were killed and seven injured when a corroded pipe exploded Monday, spewing boiling water and superheated steam on the workers.

## War on terrorism

**Gitmo detainees:** After review by a military panel, U.S. officials have determined that four terror suspects held at the U.S. Navy base in Cuba are properly classified as "enemy combatants" and will not be freed.

They are the first cases, of 21 reviewed thus far, to be decided. There is no appeal process.

Navy Secretary Gordon England, who is overseeing the reviews but has no say in the outcome of individual cases, told reporters at the Pentagon on Friday that the process, which began July 30, has proven more time consuming than expected, mainly because of translation requirements.

England said he expected that all of the nearly 600 terror suspects held at Guantanamo Bay will have their cases heard by the end of the year. Any who are determined to be improperly classified as "enemy combatants" would be released to their home country, officials have said.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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# Marine helicopter crashes on Okinawa campus

By DAVID ALLEN  
Stars and Stripes

GINOWAN, Okinawa — A U.S. Marine Corps CH-53D Sea Stallion crashed Friday at Okinawa International University, injuring all three crew members.

The school's students are on summer break and no civilian injuries were reported. The accident occurred about 2:20 p.m. near Futemma Marine Corps Air Station, where the aircraft was based.

According to an Okinawa police spokesman in Ginowan, witnesses said they heard three or four explosions when the helicopter went down at the base of the school's administration building, about 10 feet from a busy road. The helicopter burst into flames after hitting the ground, and the side of the building was blackened and had several slash marks from a rotor blade, police said.

One 10-foot length of a rotor fell some 100 feet from the crash site into the driveway of a home in a residential area, crushing a moped and shearing a rooftop television antenna. Several other buildings were damaged by falling debris.

Marine officials say the cause of the accident is under investigation. The names of the crew and details of the injuries to the helicopter crew were being withheld pending notification of their relatives.

Okinawa police say about 25 people were in the building at the time.

Yasukata Kuroshima, director of the university's administration office, was in front of the building when the helicopter went down. He said he's used to helicopter noise over the area and knew right away the helicopter flying over him was in trouble.

## Blade snaps, craft crashes

"I did not sound right," he said. "I looked up and saw a rotor blade snap off the helicopter and fall. At the same time the helicopter started to spin, making a zig-zag flight, and began to fall to the ground. I realized it was coming toward me, so I shouted to people nearby to run away and I ran too," Kuroshima said. "In the meantime, with the shock of the helicopter hitting the building, about 25 or so people from inside dashed out and ran away as far as they could."

He said he heard a small explosion when the aircraft hit the ground, and then thick black smoke enveloped the area. "Then I heard three louder explosions," he said.

The school is about 330 yards from the Marine air station's southern fence line. Kuroshima said about 200 students were on the campus even though classes were closed for summer break.

"Another faculty member and I directed our attention to keeping the students from going near the site," he said.

Marine Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman, the Okinawa Area Coordinator and with the two prefectural government vice governors Friday night to express his "heartfelt regret for this very unfortunate accident." During a brief press conference, he said the helicopter was conducting routine training and experienced "some type of mechanical failure."

"But we do not have information yet on the nature of that failure," he said.

"We are thankful that there were no injuries to any citizens of Ginowan city and that our three injured crew members are all in stable condition," Blackman said, reading from a prepared text.

"The Marine Corps takes incidents such as this very seriously. We are cooperating

## 3 crew members reported injured; Accident fuels fight to close base



DAVID ALLEN/Stars and Stripes

Left: Okinawa riot police prepare for crowd control Friday near the crash site of a CH-53D Sea Stallion that hit a building at Okinawa International University outside Futemma Marine Corps Air Station.

Right: The remains of the Marine Corps helicopter sit twisted at the base of the campus building it struck. Below left: Firefighters hose down the wreckage.

Below right: The wreckage smolders an hour after the crash.



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

fully with local government officials and will continue to do so throughout the course of an extensive investigation.

"I deeply regret the anxiety this has caused the citizens of Ginowan city," Blackman added. "I would like to personally thank the Okinawa Prefectural police and local fire departments for their assistance today."

The general did not take questions from the media.

## 'Yankee go home!'

Vice Governor Hirotaka Makino called for the grounding of all Marine helicopters until the cause of the accident is determined.

"Every time a U.S. military aircraft accident occurs, we have strongly demanded a thorough investigation and preventative measures be taken so they

are not repeated," he said. "This serious accident — a helicopter crashing into residential area — is a great shock to the people of Okinawa who are forced to live with military bases."

"We will file a strong protest," he said.

Within two hours of the accident a small group of anti-base protesters gathered near the crash scene, urging the small crowd watching Japanese and U.S. military firefighters douse the smoldering



DAVE ORINAUER/Stars and Stripes

ruins of the helicopter with chants of "Yankee go home! Marines go home!"

Kiyoko Tokashiki, an Okinawa Prefectural Assembly member from Ginowan, raised her fists in the air with the other demonstrators. She had been at the nearby city office getting a briefing from the mayor of Ginowan concerning his recent trip to the United States to lobby for the closure of the air station within five years.

"We heard the explosions and I rushed there," she said. "On the way, the first thing that came to my mind was it was a terrorist attack. ... Then at the site I learned that it was an accident — the kind of thing that we have feared for so many years," she said. "We especially feared accidents by this type of helicopter, an older model used during the Vietnam War."

## Base targeted for closure

Located in the middle of a bustling urban area, Futemma has been a focal point for anti-military sentiment for years. Opponents, including Ginowan Mayor Yoichi Iha, have demanded the base be closed. They have argued that the busy base was an accident waiting to happen.

Friday night Iha called for the suspension of all flights over residential areas.

"In the past, every time an accident involving helicopters based at Futemma air station occurred, we filed a protest and the incidents have been repeated again and again," he said in a written statement. "This could have been a major disaster."

"As the Mayor of Ginowan, whose duty is to protect the lives and property of our citizens, such an accident is never acceptable," he said. "The promised deadline for the closure of the air station that both governments agreed to has long passed," he said. "I once again demand early closure of the air station as well as a thorough investigation of the accident."

In 1996 a bilateral committee formed to consolidate U.S. base property on Okinawa called for closing of Futemma within seven years, once an alternate site for Marine air operations could be located on Okinawa.

But plans for a replacement facility in the waters off rural northeast Okinawa have run into snags. The project has been stalled by a sit-in carried out by a group of protesters who have prevented the Japanese government from conducting an environmental survey of the area.

The last serious crash of a Marine helicopter on Okinawa occurred on April 19, 1999, when a CH-53E Super Stallion crashed in the Pacific Ocean less than a mile off the northeast coast of the island during routine night flight training. All four crew members died.

The helicopter that crashed Friday, a CH-53D Sea Stallion, is primarily used to transport equipment and supplies during ship-to-shore operations.

The Sea Stallions were first introduced in 1966 and now fill the role of medium lift helicopters.

Chiyoimi Sumida and Fred Zimmerman contributed to this report.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@pstripes.osd.mil



An S-3 Viking aircraft is launched from the flight deck of the USS Independence in March 1996. U.S. military planes ended their search Friday for four missing Navy aviators whose plane, similar to the one shown, crashed into Kita Ito Jima on Tuesday.

## Navy officials say 4 aviators dead in Kita Ito Jima jet crash

By JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

Navy officials said Friday that four Navy aviators who crashed their jet into Kita Ito Jima on Tuesday night were dead after military search crews found the S-3B Viking's wreckage and two sets of remains last week.

The names of the San Diego-based crew members were not released Friday pending a mandatory waiting period after notification of next of kin.

A memorial service for the aviators is planned for Sunday aboard the USS John C. Stennis, which is deployed to the western Pacific Ocean.

The Navy is conducting an investigation into the cause of the incident while continuing recovery operations with about 41 U.S. Navy and Air Force search-and-rescue personnel, stated a 7th Fleet news release.

After the S-3B Viking's wreckage was located, the Navy directed helicopters, other aircraft and surface ships from the Stennis strike group to Kita Ito Jima, which is about 45 miles north of Iwo Jima.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force also assisted with search and rescue and is supporting current recovery efforts, Navy officials said, and expressed gratitude for JMSDF's support.

The JMSDF opened up its Iwo Jima airfield facilities to provide dining services, a rest station for search-and-rescue crews and a hangar for debris recovered from the crash site, and also made the Iwo Jima medical station available to a 24-hour basis. In addition, two JMSDF UH-60 helicopters stationed at Iwo Jima were placed on standby in case they were needed.

Navy officials also said U.S. Air

Force parascuemen from the 31st Rescue Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, flew to Iwo Jima via a Kadena-based C-130 from the 353rd Special Operations Group.

The dead aviators were assigned to Sea Control Squadron 35, based at Naval Air Station North Island in California. The

crew was conducting a routine training mission as part of the Joint Air-Sea Exercise, or JASIX '04, with the Stennis and USS Kitty Hawk strike groups in the vicinity of the Iwo Jima island chain when radio contact was lost around 7:42 p.m. Tuesday.

Juliana Giffert contributed to this story. E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanjp@starsandstripes.com

### Hokkaido pit stop

Two F-16 Falcons from the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base landed at Hakodate Airport in Hokkaido Wednesday morning after one ran low on fuel, base officials said.

The second plane was the wingman.

Base spokesman Capt. John Haynes said a fuel reserve shortage was to blame.

He said the refueled jets, which had been conducting regularly scheduled training, returned to Misawa the same day. Japanese news reports called the Hakodate incidents an "emergency landing."

"These are not unusual problems," Haynes said.

"We have single-engine aircraft. Whenever there's even a minor problem... it's always safest and smartest to land and figure out what the problem is on the ground."

He said the 35th Fighter Wing was grateful for the Hakodate airport staff's assistance.

### Airman found guilty

An enlisted airman stationed at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, was found guilty of all seven offenses cited against him, including indecent assault at a general court-martial that concluded Aug. 6.

Senior Airman Mario D. Ellis received a bad conduct discharge, three months confinement, and his grade reduced to Airman Basic.

Ellis' charges included: two counts of indecent assault, two counts of indecent language toward co-workers, one count of assault and battery, one count of mistreatment of a subordinate and one count of harassment of a civilian, according to an Air Force news release.

The offenses occurred between September 2003 and January 2004.

### DeCa meat contracts

The Defense Commissary Agency last week awarded two meat contracts for commissaries at U.S. military bases across the Pacific.

The contracts, for deliveries of beef and pork products to commissaries in DeCa's Far East Region, run through July 31, 2005.

Washington Beef was awarded a \$32,784,453 contract to provide fresh meat products to commissaries in Japan and Okinawa.

According to the contract, meat will be processed in Toppenish, Wash.

DeCa awarded Tyson Fresh Meats Inc. a \$25,003,658 contract to provide fresh meat products to commissaries in Guam and South Korea.

Meat will be processed at various locations throughout the United States.

According to DeCa, 24 firms were solicited for the contracts and four offers were received.

### Support for U.N. seat

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration supports Japan in its drive for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Secretary of State Colin Powell and Deputy Secretary Richard Armitage said Friday.

There are five permanent members of the Council, the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed a panel to determine whether power shifts in the world should be reflected by adding Japan and Germany as permanent members.

From staff and wire reports

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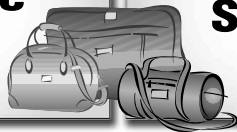
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# New Sanno Hotel getting four-star face lift

## Renovations at Navy facility in Tokyo 'designed to wow'

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Diners relocated to the bar and shoppers in the upstairs Navy Exchange might notice unusual banging nearby, but the New Sanno Hotel is on its way to a new and improved look.

The Navy-contracted luxury hotel designed to give service-members and Defense Department personnel a low-cost place to stay in downtown Tokyo is undergoing a \$10 million renovation through next year.

For the 53,000 visitors who come to the hotel each year, the change will mean a grander entrance, renovated restaurants and a new coffee shop serving fresh-baked pastries.

"The décor was outdated," said Charles Cavill, director of the New Sanno. "It was time to modernize the hotel."

Public areas on the first and second floors, including the lobby, restaurants and staircases, will be renovated in a federalist style. Federalist décor uses stone, marble, wood and stained glass — materials that last and don't show wear, unlike carpet and painted walls.

"We're going to incorporate that throughout the hotel," Cavill said. "It's very durable."

The goal is turning the popular hotel from outdated to four-star. The hotel gets a face lift every few years but this is the largest renovation so far, Cavill said.

"About every two years we attack a new project here," Cavill said. "This is the most ambitious and expensive."

Some of the notable changes include the new coffee shop, shifting the front desk check-in, moving the Japanese restaurant Kikuyu to the second floor and making the bar brighter and more attractive.

However, the number and size of the rooms won't change. The building's small footprint and Japanese laws concerning construction prevent hotel officials from adding new floors or wings on the original structure. They can't reconfigure to add rooms, so the hotel will remain full almost year-round.

The problem is our occupancy is so high," Cavill said. The hotel maintains a 98 percent occupancy rate, he said.

For the renovation, designers took advantage of unused space

to raise the ceilings several feet. Each area will have elaborate ceiling designs and will be brighter with wood-paneled walls, stained glass and modern lighting.

The new lobby will have marble floors and a fireplace where the current front desk sits. The front desk moves to the left of the lobby so guests can register in a less-crowded area.

The jewelry counter that once sat in the lobby is moving upstairs to the Navy Exchange, to give shoppers a more private, comfortable place to browse, Cavill said.

Downstairs, the Emporium Restaurant will remain in the same location with a complete update.

The *teppanyaki* restaurant Kikuyu will move upstairs to a much larger open space, with a waterfall and flooring floors. The menu will add Kobe beef, sashimi and *kaiseki* (multi-course) dinners.

The entrance will be where the Community Bank currently is situated.

The bank will be relocated to the left of its present spot. It will receive a face lift as well, with woodwork and the look of a bank rather than a storefront, Cavill said.

Where Kikuyu had been, next to the Emporium, on the first floor, hotel officials will create a new coffee shop called the Sunshine Café, which will sell Starbucks coffee and fresh-baked pastries.

Wellington, the fine dining restaurant, will have a new private dining area able to seat 10 diners. The main restaurant will have curtained booths for privacy and more comfortable seating.

Cavill said most of the restaurant and lobby changes will be completed this year.

Over the winter, builders will begin renovating the front exterior, or adding pavers, a fountain and a portico large enough to shield five cars from the elements.

The front entrance had no eye appeal," Cavill said. "We wanted to brighten that up."

The final phase, next year, will include upgrades to the game room and Embarcadero Lounge, now a dim, Las Vegas-esque lounge.

Cavill said the game room and bar will be swapped so the entrance will lead into a comfortable, tasteful and well-lit lounge.



ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF THE NEW SANNNO HOTEL

An artist's illustration shows the New Sanno's Emporium Restaurant after renovations are complete. The Tokyo hotel's \$10 million face lift is expected to be finished next fall.

A dance floor with DJ booth and the game room will be situated to the back.

"It's going to be a very quiet, adult place to have a drink," Cavill said.

The entire project, estimated at nearly \$10 million, is expected to be finished next fall. It's funded by hotel profits, Cavill said.

The renovation will not lead to a rate increase, he added.

The hotel underwent a \$5 million renovation three years ago to add an indoor pool, fitness center and locker rooms. Hotel profits also funded that renovation, Cavill said.

The next improvement, in a few years, could be the ballroom. Cavill said renovations will happen gradually. The new bank is to open Tuesday, followed by the jewelry counter in the Navy Exchange in September.

The lobby and restaurants are to be unveiled in November.

The New Sanno was built by the Japanese government for U.S. forces in 1983, replacing a hotel in nearby Akasaka.

Japan built the new hotel with the same number of rooms and parking spaces as the old, both now are in high demand, Cavill



Marble floors will add a gleaming touch to the New Sanno Lobby once renovations are complete. Hotel profits are paying for the project, and hotel director Charles Cavill said rates will not increase.

said.

The renovation has been planned for several years. The result, Cavill said, is "designed to wow."

"That's the effect I had intended," he said. "It's going to be much, much brighter."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstrips.osd.mil

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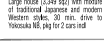
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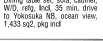
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# 2nd ID troops unload gear for Iraq move

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

SHUAIBA PORT, Kuwait — The "Strikeforce" arrived.

Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team have spent the last week unloading their equipment in Kuwait as they prepare for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

"The soldiers are unloading virtually every kind of vehicle the Army uses, from tanks to Humvees, tankers, bulldozers and engineers' support equipment," said 1st Sgt. James Sellers of Head-

quarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command. Sellers was supervising the unloading, standing on the docks surrounded by vehicles and equipment and barking orders to the soldiers.

The equipment — more than 1,800 tanks, trucks, and other hardware — left 2nd ID bases near the Korean Demilitarized Zone last month.

The equipment left the South Korean port of Pusan in what officials described as the largest logistical operation the U.S. military has carried out on the peninsula in 50 years.

The equipment was loaded onto a pair of U.S. military transport ships that reached Kuwait last week.

A small team of 2nd ID soldiers traveled ahead of it by air and waited on the docks to unload the vessels when they arrived. The 2nd ID soldiers-turned-dockworkers drove the vehicles to a marshalling area a short distance from the wharves for collection by Onyx.

Once the vehicles reached the yard, they had to be parked in groups that would eventually convey to Strikeforce's base at Camp Buehler in Kuwait.

On Tuesday, Spc. Philip Brown of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment found himself backing a Humvee with a trailer between two rows of closely packed vehicles.

But the trailer kept veering off to one side or the other.

"Hummer trailers tend to do this," he explained, flapping his hand around like a fish tail. "We are making sure the trucks are in the right rows. All the vehicles have to be in the right units — [for] the proper convoy," he said.

Back on the wharves, the 2nd ID dockers shared their work-

space with Kuwaiti port employees, most of whom are local nationals from places such as Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. As the military vehicles drove off the grey-hulled transport ships, the locals were busy nearby loading and unloading commercial products, such as fertilizer and gravel. Ships from around the globe, including Russia and Norway sat at their moorings, and across the bay the soldiers could see an oil pipeline, supported by hundreds of wooden piles stretching far out to sea.

E-mail Seth Robson at: [robsonsp@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:robsonsp@stripes.osd.mil)



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# Najaf offensive suspended for negotiations

## Al-Sadr reportedly wounded by shrapnel

BY TODD PITMAN  
The Associated Press

**NAJAF, Iraq** — Iraqi officials and aides to a radical Shiite cleric negotiated Friday to end fighting that has raged in Najaf for nine days, after American forces suspended an offensive against Muqtada al-Sadr's militia. Al-Sadr's aides said he was wounded by shrapnel, but Iraqi officials said the cleric was involved in the talks.

With negotiations under way, the U.S. military said it suspended offensive operations against al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militiamen, who are holed up in the city's vast cemetery and the Imam Ali shrine, one of the holiest sites to Shiite Muslims.

"We are allowed to engage the enemy only in self-defense and long enough to break contact," said Maj. Bob Pizzitola, executive officer for the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division. "That was a blanket order for everybody."

He said the militia appeared to have stopped most attacks as well, and the city appeared quieter just one day after the U.S. military launched a major offensive.

"Hopefully, the talks will go well and everything will be resolved peacefully," Pizzitola said.

By Friday afternoon, there was no sign of U.S. or Iraqi forces inside the old city and there were no sounds of clashes.

"We are now celebrating the victory. This means the defeat of the other side," al-Sadr aide Ahmed al-Shabany said.

The U.S. military said it was still maintain-

ing a loose cordon around the old city, but had repositioned troops after the offensive was suspended.

The U.S. Defense Department said about 2,200 Marines, along with 500 to 1,000 soldiers and an undisclosed number of U.S.-trained Iraqi troops, were involved in Thursday's offensive.

Also Friday, U.S. airstrikes hit Fallujah, witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The U.S. military had no immediate comment, but U.S. forces have fought with militants holed up in that Sunni Muslim city for months.

One of Iraq's most senior Shiite religious leaders called for an end to the Najaf battle, as Iraqis took to the streets across the country to protest the fighting.

"What is going on in Najaf and the rest of the Iraqi cities is a violation of sanctities, an aggression on holy sites and shedding of innocent blood that could lead to a vicious civil war," Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Taqi al-Modares said during Friday prayers in Karbala.

Najaf Gov. Adnan al-Zurufi said negotiations were being held between officials of Iraq's interim government and al-Sadr's representatives, without participation by U.S. officials. National Security Adviser Mowaffaq al-Rubaie and Defense Minister Hazem Shalan were both in Najaf, Iraqi officials said.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said all activities in Najaf were being "closely coordinated" between coalition forces and the Iraqi leadership.



U.S. soldiers patrol the holy city of Najaf, Iraq, on Friday. Thousands of U.S. troops sealed off Najaf's vast cemetery, its old city and a revered Shiite shrine and unleashed a tank, infantry and helicopter assault against militants loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr.

Al-Sadr has led an uprising against coalition troops for more than a week. An aide, Haider al-Tousi, said the cleric was hit in the chest and leg by shrapnel as he met with militia members near the Imam Ali shrine early Friday, and another aide said his condition was stable.

The Iraqi Interior Ministry said al-Sadr was not wounded and had been involved in the negotiations since Friday morning. But in Washington, a senior U.S. official, when asked whether al-Sadr had been wounded, said, "That is our understanding."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the United States learned of al-Sadr's condition from Iraqi sources and did not know anything about the circumstances.

Al-Sadr urged his followers to remain calm.

"We got a letter from him saying: 'Be steadfast and behave rationally. Don't surrender to your emotions,'" Aws al-Khafaji, at al-Sadr's office in the southern town of Nasiriyah, told Al-Jazeera television.

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# Lieutenant acquitted of SUV theft, convicted of lying

The Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — An Army lieutenant received a split verdict when a jury acquitted him in the theft of a sports utility vehicle in Iraq but convicted him of lying about the incident.

A jury deliberated nearly six hours Thursday night before acquitting First Lt. Bradley Pavlik of accessory after the fact to robbery and convicting him of mak-

ing a false statement. He faces sentencing Friday morning.

During a two-day court-martial, military prosecutors argued that Pavlik knew his soldiers robbed a sheik of his SUV in Iraq, then helped them cover up the crime.

Pavlik's civilian attorney, Frank Spinner, argued that there was no evidence that Pavlik knew one of his soldiers planned to commit a robbery.

In July, Sgt. 1st Class James Williams, 37, was convicted of stealing the SUV in April 2003; the jury recommended he serve no prison time.

At his trial, Williams said he took the vehicle only because Pavlik ordered him to and that he did not think it was a criminal act.

Early in the war, soldiers were allowed to "commandeer" civilian vehicles for military purposes under the rules of engagement.

They were instructed to leave a receipt so the vehicle could be returned to the owner or money could be given to them.

Williams said Pavlik was angry his own vehicle had broken down and told squad leaders to find him another. The SUV was taken without force, but no receipt was left. The Army later paid Sheik Ahmed W. Al-Faisal \$32,000.

A second soldier in the platoon served a year in prison for his

role in the theft.

Pavlik pleaded guilty earlier this week to violating a general order and of conduct unbecoming an officer; another charge of violating a general order was dismissed before the trial started. A charge of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline was dismissed Thursday.

It was not immediately known what penalty the remaining charges carry upon conviction.

# Militants heed cleric's aides, free British journalist in Basra

BY ABAS FAYADH

The Associated Press

BASRA, Iraq — Militants in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Friday released a British journalist they kidnapped and threatened to kill, after aides to militant Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr demanded he be freed.

The journalist, James Brandon, was brought to the Basra's office of al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia and freed. He was later handed over to the British consulate by Brig. Mohammed Kadhim al-Ali, the head of Basra police.

"I'm OK, I'm recovering," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I've been released thanks

to the Mahdi Army, because they intervened and negotiated with the kidnappers."

Brandon, 23, was abducted Thursday night when a group of masked gunmen stormed the Difa Hotel in Basra, pulled him from his room and badly beat him.

They released a video Friday morning showing a scared and bare-chested Brandon with a bandage around his head.

They threatened to kill him within 24 hours if U.S. forces did not leave Najaf, where the Americans were fighting al-Sadr's militia.

Al-Sadr aides immediately condemned the kidnapping. Ahmed al-Khalisy, head of al-Sadr's office in

Basra, called on the captors Friday to release Brandon immediately.

Several hours later, the militants brought Brandon to al-Sadr's local office and freed him.

Brandon, 23, said he was a freelance journalist who came to Basra on Wednesday working for Britain's Sunday Telegraph, the Christian Science Monitor and the Scotsman.

Kidnappers in Iraq have seized scores of hostages in recent months, threatening to kill them in an effort to drive out coalition forces and companies supporting them.

However, most of those kidnappers have been Sunni insurgents.

The militants who seized Brandon were almost certainly Shiites angry at the battles in Najaf.



Journalist James Brandon speaks on his cell phone after arriving at the Basra office of militant Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Friday. Militants released Brandon after al-Sadr's aides demanded he be freed.

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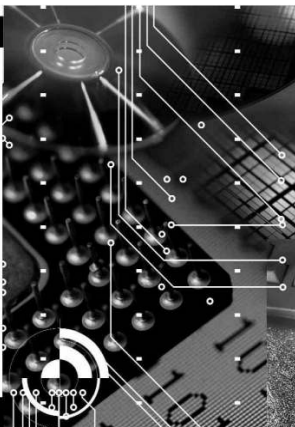
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# Disabled children in Baghdad get a helping hand from Army

By JOHN KOOPMAN  
San Francisco Chronicle

BAGHDAD — It's moving day at the Dina Institute.

A big, green U.S. Army truck pulls up to the curb. Soldiers in full battle dress — helmets, body armor, automatic weapons — jump out and start loading the truck like college students moving into a new dorm.

They file into a small, cramped concrete-and-tile house. In the rooms, kids of various ages and infirmities sit, stand or crawl. The children have Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and a host of other developmental disabilities.

Army Capt. Evans Hanson, from a nearby field artillery unit, spots a young man walking in a sideways, awkward gait and extends a hand.

"Hi, buddy. Remember me?" The boy smiles and offers his hand for a limp shake.

The soldiers are here to move the institute to a new home more than twice as big, in a nicer neighborhood, with no rent.

The Army's good deed might just keep the Dina Institute afloat.

The private school cares for more than 60 children, all of whom have slight to severe disabilities. Some live there, others come for the day. There are far too many children, but the headmistress, Inam Jawad, can't say no.

"It's very difficult for these children in Iraq, if they have no place to go," she said through an interpreter.

The institute was on the verge of collapse a couple of months ago, with too many children and rent three months overdue. The prospect of sending kids home or closing altogether loomed.

Then soldiers from Alpha Battery of the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, knocked at the door.

The unit commander, Capt. Mike Burgoyne, had heard about the institute from local leaders and decided to check it out. Jawad told him the institute had no money, and food was scarce. They had had no meat for more than a month.

Moved to action by what he had witnessed, Burgoyne worked with Hanson, the battalion's civil affairs officer, to tap the Army's civil affairs funds and give the institute \$3,000. They brought a pallet loaded with food and supplies.

They talked to the Ministry of Health, which found a nongovernment group called Muslim Hands to sponsor the institute. The London-based organization tries to raise money and find other support for the school.

"What they really needed was a bigger, better place to stay," Hanson said.

That's where Saddam Hussein comes in.

A couple of blocks away, in a well-to-do neighborhood on a tree-lined street, is a house that used to belong to one of Hussein's wives. It was described as one of his hideaways, a "safe house."

These days, the house technically belongs to the government, and

in Iraq, a private organization can squat in a government-owned building if no one else takes control of it. There's paperwork to do, and authorization to get, but the soldiers have an influential contact in the ministry, and the man agreed to help out. So the Dina Institute got a new home.

The institute is named after Jawad's daughter, who is mentally retarded.

Jawad lost her husband in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s and raised their two children as best she could. She put Dina in a government school at first, but she figured she could do a better job, so she started her own school.

Over the years, people heard about it and brought their developmentally disabled children to her. Some pay tuition. Some don't or can't. Jawad takes them anyway. That's how the institute's enrollment exceeded 60, when she was supposed to have only 30.

"I love my daughter very much, and I want the best for her," she said. "I look at the other kids the same way."

The Army spends a lot of time in the neighborhoods, trying to help people renovate schools and make other improvements. Moving day was blazing hot. Soldiers are forbidden to remove their protective gear, and senior officers constantly worry about shootings and bombings, so the men in their overheated body armor sweated as they worked.

A couple of guys got on the back of the truck and loaded furniture handed up by soldiers and Iraqis laboring side-by-side on the street.



U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, left, and Ukrainian Defense Minister Yevhen Marchuk chat during their meeting near the Black Sea resort of Yalta, Ukraine, on Friday. Marchuk said his country will maintain its military force in Iraq.

## Ukraine minister vows to keep troops in Iraq

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN  
The Associated Press

PARTEINIT, Ukraine — Ukraine's defense minister said Friday his country will maintain its sizable military force in Iraq for the foreseeable future, contrary to his earlier suggestion that the force might be reduced or withdrawn.

Defense Minister Yevhen Marchuk said the force would stay close to its current level of 1,600 soldiers.

His comments came in a news conference with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in this resort town on the coast of the Black Sea.

Ukraine's troops constitute the fourth largest contingent of allied soldiers aiding the large U.S. force in reconstruction and security efforts in Iraq. They are primarily involved in training Iraqi security forces.

Rumsfeld, after meeting with Marchuk and Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma, praised the former Soviet republic for its support in Iraq.

Kuchma's office issued a statement after the meeting saying Ukraine "remains on the path of Euro-Atlantic integration," despite his recent move to back away from assertions that Ukraine is striving for full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union.

Both NATO and the EU had said previously there was no chance for early membership for Ukraine in the two organizations.

On another matter, Rumsfeld was asked about negotiations to end fighting that has raged in Najaf, Iraq, for nine days.

"What's at stake there is no different from what's at stake any-

where in the country," he said. "Twenty-five million Iraqi people that have been liberated are on a path toward a free and democratic system. To the extent that people use violence to try to prevent that, they'll be stopped."

From Ukraine, Rumsfeld was heading for Russia.

The Interfax-Military news agency reported that Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov and Rumsfeld are expected to sign a military cooperation plan for 2005 during a meeting Saturday in St. Petersburg.

The officials also plan to discuss ways of countering global security threats including terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, the report said.

The news agency also quoted a source in the Defense Ministry as saying Russian officials intend to discuss the U.S. plan to upgrade an early warning radar station in Greenland, which they fear may threaten Russia.

The source was reported to have reiterated concerns voiced this week by the Foreign Ministry about the station, which is to play a crucial role in a planned U.S. missile-defense system.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's strong support for the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks bolstered U.S.-Russian relations, but they have been hurt by the U.S. invasion of Iraq, which Russia vehemently opposed.

On Thursday, Moscow renewed its calls for holding an international conference on Iraq, saying it would help improve the security situation there.

"We are still convinced that these processes need a wider and more representative political base," Interfax quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov as saying.

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# Rising drug costs affect pharmacy choices

Phyllis Ramm, wife of an Air Force retiree, got a surprise Aug. 7 when she called the Keesler Air Force Base pharmacy to refill routine prescriptions. She learned that some popular brand-name drugs no longer would be dispensed on base, after patients get a final 30-day supply.

The Air Force directed its 74 pharmacies in July to drop Allegra, for allergy relief, and Celebrex, for arthritis pain, from their formulary, to and to recommend instead lower-cost alternatives of equal effectiveness.

Patients using Allegra, a non-drowsy antihistamine, can take a generic form of Claritin instead, said Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Kelley, Air Force assistant surgeon general, in a July memo to commands. Users of Celebrex and Bextra, "cox-2 inhibitors" for arthritis, should switch to Vioxx. Patients using the insulin Humalog should be offered Novolog instead.

The changes, meant to control spiraling

drug costs without sacrificing patient care, reflect "an extremely challenging budget year for the Air Force Medical Service," said Kelley.

The change also upset some patients, including Phyllis Ramm's husband.

"My feeling is that our entitlement, of which pharmaceutical service is a part, is being chipped away," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Charles Ramm, a resident of Gautier, Miss.

Air Force pharmacies are only the first to tighten drug inventories in this way. The Army and Navy are expected to make similar moves this fall, during a more formal process to shape a Uniform Formulary.

Bob Washington of the Fleet Reserve Association, who will serve on the beneficiary panel, said the Air Force's change in base

formulary last month looks like an attempt to "circumvent" this process.

Air Force officials said they worried about that perception but still needed to act.

Frank Rohrbaugh, with the Military Officer Association of America, said a "top down" formulary change, typically made at base level, hints at the severity of a medical budget shortfall hitting all the services this year.

The Military Coalition, a group of service and veteran associations, complained of the formulary shift in a July 26 letter to Lt. Gen. George Taylor, Air Force surgeon general. The Air Force, it said, is risking higher drug costs if more patients use the Tricare retail network where costs are higher for the government and patients. Also, while the Air Force takes credit for standardizing its own base formulary,

the changes have created "regrettable interservice disparities," the letter said.

One coalition representative said the Army and Navy can't be thrilled by the prospect of filling Allegra and Celebrex prescriptions for Air Force beneficiaries, which will aggravate their own budget challenges.

Col. Phil Samples, pharmacy consultant to the Air Force surgeon general, said he hopes patients instead try replacement medicines. The generic version of Claritin, for example, costs the military pharmacies seven cents a pill, versus Allegra, which costs 36 cents.

The mix of drugs available on base is the only element of pharmacy costs the services can control, he noted. But if during the formulary review process, Assistant Secretary of Defense Dr. William Winkenwerder directs a reversal, he said, "the Air Force will salute sharply and change to [whatever is the] DOD Uniform Formulary."

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail mhupdate@aol.com or visit [www.militaryupdate.com](http://www.militaryupdate.com)

## MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

# Navy officer gets jail time for wearing 12 unearned medals

The Associated Press

QUANTICO, Va. — A Navy officer has been sentenced to nearly four months in prison for wearing 12 medals he didn't earn.

Capt. Roger Edwards, 54, of Mayo, Md., was sentenced Friday after pleading guilty to one charge of wearing the ribbons, which include the Silver Star, Dis-

tinguished Flying Cross and four Purple Hearts. He is being held in a Marine Corps brig.

A military psychiatrist told the general court-martial that Edwards suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome from his service in the Vietnam War, as well as depression and a "narcissistic personality."

"He wanted to live up to the ex-

pectations people had of him," defense attorney Charles Gittins said.

A tipster reported Edwards to a Navy Inspector General hot line.

But, according to Gittins, Edwards' military record, which spanned 36 years, didn't need padding. It included a stint as executive assistant to the Marine Corps' top medical officer. In Oc-

tober 2002, he was made an "Honorary Marine," one of the Marines' highest honors.

Most recently, Edwards was in a unit credited with saving Marines' lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Gittins said it was unusual for an officer to be imprisoned for a nonviolent offense. He said he would ask Navy officials to intervene and have Edwards released.

Under the plea agreement, the secretary of the Navy will determine Edwards' final rank. It could be the last rank he achieved before he started wearing the unearned medals. He also will be allowed to keep his retirement benefits.

Edwards was scheduled to retire in August 2003 but was held on active duty because of the legal actions.

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## IN THE WORLD

# Sudan leader orders disarmament of militias

BY IBRAHIM ALI SULEIMAN

The Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir ordered tribal leaders in the Darfur region to form security forces to disarm Arab militias blamed for a rampage of violence that has killed 30,000 people during an 18-month conflict.

The decision, announced late Thursday after two days of talks between government officials

and Darfur tribal chiefs, comes amid intense international pressure to end the Darfur crisis, which has chased more than 1 million people from their homes.

The United Nations describes Darfur's plight as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The European Union, United States and humanitarian groups accuse el-Bashir's government of backing the Arab militias, known as the Janjaweed, with vehicles,

helicopters and airplanes — a charge denied by Sudanese officials.

It was not clear how effective the government's move would be.

Despite the government's previous efforts to restore order, including the deployment of police to the troubled region, U.N. officials and aid groups say fighting and other violence continues.

According to a government communiqué issued Thursday, al-Bashir ordered some 100

tribes in Sudan's three Darfur states to create their own security forces, including armed camel riders, to disarm the militias.

The Civil Administration of Darfur's Grand States, which comprises the region's tribes, also was told to disarm with 6,000 police sent to disarm the Janjaweed.

The communiqué said the Civil Administration would take charge of dealing with neighboring states "to hand in wanted out-

lawed persons to Sudanese authorities and control weapon smuggling across borders."

On Friday, the aid agency said it had reached a deal with the both rebel groups to allow truck deliveries of food to Darfur areas under their control.

Sudanese government and rebel officials have indicated they will sign a new round of peace talks set for Aug. 23 hosted by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, chairman of the African Union.

## 17 Abu Sayyaf members receive death sentences

BY OLIVER TEVES

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A southern Philippines court sentenced 17 members of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militant group to death Friday for kidnapping nurses from a hospital three years ago.

Only 13 of the defendants were at the heavily guarded court house in Isabela, capital of the southern Basilan island, where a clerk read the ruling that described a kidnapping spree that began with the mass abduction of more than 50 pupils, teachers and a priest in 2000 and continued with the taking of 17 Filipino tourists and three Americans a year later. Two of those Americans died.

The four other convicts escaped during a mass jailbreak from the Basilan provincial prison earlier this year and were sentenced in absentia.

Also Friday, military helicopters using machine guns and rockets pounded the suspected hide-out of a heavily armed kidnapping gang elsewhere in the southern Philippines, killing at least 15 gunmen, police and the military said.

Col. Franklin del Prado, spokesman for the army's 6th Infantry Division, said about 20 members of the Pentagon gang were believed to be hiding in Lumabao, about 600 miles southeast of Manila, together with chieftain Tahir Alonto, who carries a \$17,800 bounty on his head. It was not known whether Alonto was killed.

Deputy national police chief Viratus Gil said he received a field report that 15 gunmen were killed in the raid. The military gave no immediate information about casualties.

The Pentagon group, linked to many ransom kidnappings on the main southern island of Mindanao, and the Abu Sayyaf are both on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations.

Pentagon members are holding two Filipino hostages, but it was unclear whether the captives were in the same village.

Abu Sayyaf guerrillas raided a Basilan hospital in the town of Lamitan on June 2, 2001, to get medicine. Soldiers surrounded the building and the rebels took three female nurses and a male



**A blindfolded member of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf grimes in pain as a soldier adjusts his handcuffs aboard a military truck Friday in Manila for transport to the national penitentiary. Seventeen members of the Abu Sayyaf were given three death penalties and one life imprisonment each for their crimes of kidnapping hospital nurses in southern Philippines; four were tried in absentia.**

hospital clerk hostage to take their escape.

Prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron said each of the 17 Abu Sayyaf members received three death penalties for kidnapping the women.

They were additionally sentenced to life imprisonment for kidnapping the male clerk.

"They will also be tried in other cases where they also participated," he said, referring to other kidnappings and killings.

The rebels separately abducted 25 Basilan farmers to help them carry weapons and equipment and later beheaded 12 of them, he said.

Executions in the Philippines are carried out by lethal injection.

Police and soldiers armed with assault rifles used three Simba armored personnel carriers to block roads leading to the courthouse. They frisked pedestrians and shooed away those on motorcycles.

U.S.-backed offensives have dislodged the guerrillas from their jungle lairs on Basilan. Philippine officials now consider the group a spent force, down from about 1,000 guerrillas four years ago to about 300, although it has been linked to several recent terror attacks.

## Church calls icon a copy, warns pope to stay away

BY STEVE GUTTERMAN

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The leader of the Russian Orthodox Church reiterated Friday that a revered icon the Vatican plans to return to Russia in a reconciliation gesture is a copy and that there is no reason for Pope John Paul II himself to bring it.

Patriarch Alexy II told President Vladimir Putin that the icon — known as the Mother of God of Kazan — will be turned over to the Russian Orthodox Church at a cathedral in the Kremlin later this month, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

But Alexy said the icon, now at the Vatican, is "one of many copies" of the 16th-century original. "For that reason there is no need for the Pope himself to bring it," ITAR-Tass quoted him as saying.

While the Russian Orthodox Church had already said last year that the icon is a copy and could "under no circumstances be considered a reason" for a visit by John Paul, the patriarch's statement underlined the persistent animosity between his church and the Vatican.

John Paul had been hoping to return the icon himself and become the first Roman Catholic pontiff to visit Russia, but tense relations with the Russian Orthodox Church have prevented such a trip. Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said last month that the icon would be taken to Russia on Aug. 28 by a Vatican delegation still to be named.

ITAR-Tass reported that two Roman Catholic cardinals will bring the icon to Russia, where Alexy told Putin it would be handed over at the Cathedral of the Assumption in the Kremlin.

The icon, which first appeared in the city of Kazan in 1579, is revered by Russian believers for its purported ability to work miracles, including the rout of Polish invaders from Russia in the early 17th century. It hung in the Kazan Cathedral on Moscow's Red Square and the Kazan Cathedral in St. Petersburg before being taken to the West after the 1917 revolution.

## Thousands evacuate from forest fire in Spain

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A forest fire fueled by gusty winds charred a large swath of a nature reserve in eastern Spain Friday and burned its way toward villages, forcing the evacuation of some 6,000 people.

No injuries have been reported in the fire in Sierra Calderona, a mountainous area of Valencia province.

The blaze has blackened more than 1,800 acres of land since it broke Thursday night, and was burning out of control at midday Friday, the regional emergency coordination office said.

Authorities ordered the evacuation of the town of Naquera, home to around 3,000 people, rushing in chartered buses for people assembling in the town square.

Thousands more were forced from their homes in at least three villages.

The fire is believed to have been set deliberately, as inspectors have detected four separate fronts, the regional interior minister, Luis Ibanez, told reporters.

Authorities called it the worst fire this summer in the Valencia region.



**Two men are silhouetted by a wildfire that broke out in Sierra Calderona national park near Valencia, eastern Spain, early Friday. The fire has burned 1,800 acres and forced about 3,000 people from their homes.**

## IN THE STATES

## Powerful hurricane Charley bearing down

BY JILL BARTON  
AND ALLEN G. BREED

The Associated Press

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Hurricane Charley struck the Florida mainland at Charlotte Harbor as a dangerous Category 4 storm Friday, pummeling west-central Florida with winds reaching 145 mph and a wall of water up to 15 feet high.

President Bush declared the regions in Florida affected by Charley and Tropical Storm Bonnie a federal disaster area. Gov. Jeb Bush, the president's brother, projected damage exceeding \$15 billion. Bonnie hit the Panhandle on Thursday.

There were early reports of widespread damage and one person killed while driving during the storm. Some 335,000 customers lost power, Florida Power & Light said.

Almost 2 million people were urged to evacuate before the strongest hurricane to strike Florida since Andrew in 1992. Charley rapidly gained strength in the Gulf of Mexico after swinging around the Florida Keys as a more moderate Category 2 storm Friday morning.

The hurricane reached landfall at 3:45 p.m., when the eye passed over the barrier islands between Fort Myers and Punta Gorda, some 110 miles southeast of the Tampa Bay area that includes Tampa and St. Petersburg.

"We are ground zero for Hurricane Charley," said Wayne Salade, director of emergency management in Charlotte County.

The hurricane hit the mainland 30 minutes later, with storm surge flooding of 10 to 15 feet, the National Hurricane Center said.

The surge "is going to be the main killer," said Max Mayfield, director of the hurricane center in Miami. "This is the nightmare scenario that we've been talking about for years."

"You've got roofs blowing off. It's going to be bad. Real bad."

Salade was angry that forecasters underestimated the intensity of the storm until shortly before landfall.

"They told us for years they don't forecast hurricane intensity well and unfortunately, we know that now," he said. "This magnitude storm was never predicted."

There were reports of damage in Cape Coral, Sanibel Island and North Fort Myers. The roof, windows and doors were damaged at Cape Coral Hospital, said Gordon DeMarchi, public information officer at the Lee County emergency management center, but no injuries were reported.

About 120,000 customers lost power in Lee County — including the emergency management center.

There was one reported fatality during the storm: A crash on Interstate 75 in Sarasota County killed one person, the sheriff's office said.

The eye passed directly over Punta Gorda, a city of 15,000 at Charlotte Country Airport, wind flipped over a single-engine plane, spun a parked pickup truck spun 180 degrees and ripped the roof off an 80- by 100-foot building.

As Charley bore down on the region, many streets were deserted.

Residents were told to stay home or head to shelters, and even the Charlotte County emergency operation center had to be evacuated.

The wind snapped pine trees in half, and offshore the gulf churned like water in a washing machine.

About 100 people refused to leave Sanibel Island. Authorities closed the bridge leading to the barrier island and didn't expect to open it until Saturday.

"It looks as if they're going to have to ride out the storm," DeMarchi said.



THE PALM BEACH (FLA) POST-AP

Seven-year-olds Christopher Varela, left, and Gregory Veliz, both of Key West, Fla., check out what Hurricane Charley was doing to the island Friday. Florida officials urged almost 2 million to evacuate the area.

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## CENTCOM operations will continue despite evacuation of MacDill

BY SANDRA JONTZ  
Stars and Stripes

Hurricane Charley has forced the evacuation of U.S. Central Command headquarters staff members but will not disrupt operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, a spokesman said.

The military's top leader responsible for the area, Army Gen. John Abizaid, was able to maintain communications with key personnel overseas, in spite of being forced from the headquarters building on MacDill Air Force Base by Category 4 Hurricane Charley, Lt. Cmdr. Nick Balice said.

Abizaid stayed in the Tampa Bay region Friday "in a safe location with access to all communication equipment," Balice said. "What's happening here in Tampa will not have any effect on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The base has been evacuated, but we have multiple locations of operations, such as the forward headquarters in Qatar that has been fully manned and operational since the war began in March [of 2003]."

Balice declined to provide details about Abizaid's whereabouts during the hurricane or the communication equipment.

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# Julia Child, chef and cookbook author, dies at 91

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Julia Child, the chef who brought the intricacies of French cuisine to American home cooks through her television series and books, died in her sleep. She was 91.

"America has lost a true national treasure," Nicholas Latimer, director of publicity for Alfred A. Knopf publishing, said in a statement Friday. "She will be missed terribly."

She died Friday at her home in an assisted living center in Montecito, Calif. The cause of death was not given, but she died three days before what would have been her 92nd birthday.

A 6-foot-2-inch-tall American folk hero with a warbling, encouraging voice and able hands, "The French Chef" was known

to her public as Julia.

She preached a light but not in good food but in sharing it, ending her landmark public television lessons at a set table and with the wish "Bon appetit."

"Dining with one's friends and beloved family is certainly one of life's primal and most innocent delights, one that is both soul-satisfying and eternal," she said in the introduction to her seventh book, "The Way to Cook."

"In spite of food fads, fitness programs, and health concerns, we must never lose sight of a beautifully conceived meal."

Active and a frequent traveler in her 80s, Child credited good genes and a habit begun in her 40s of eating everything in moderation.

Like her friend James Beard, Child was influenced but not battered by the popularity of fast food, low-fat food and health food. She aimed "The Way to Cook" at a new generation and while it offered plenty of recipes using butter and cream, it left room for experimentation and variation in its blend of classic French and free-style American techniques. It was a hit, with nearly 400,000 copies in print just four months after publication.

Child did not take a cooking lesson until she was in her 30s. And she was in her 50s when her first television series began in 1963. When World War II began, she

joined the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA. She was sent off to do clerical chores in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), where she met Paul Child, a career diplomat who later became a photographer and painter, on the porch of a tea planter's bungalow in 1943. They married in 1946 and two years later were sent to Paris.

Child enrolled in the famed Cordelia Bleu cooking school, motivated at least in part by a desire to cook for her epicure husband.

Child won a Peabody award in 1965 and an Emmy in 1966, and went on to star in several more series for Boston's WGBH-TV.

Paul Child died in 1994, and in late 2001, Julia Child, a longtime resident of Cambridge, Massachusetts, moved to Santa Barbara. The couple had no children.



Child

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Gina Matos McGreevey, left, stands next to her husband, Gov. James E. McGreevey, as he announces his resignation during a news conference at the Statehouse in Trenton, N.J., on Thursday. McGreevey also admitted he is homosexual and had an extramarital affair with another man. The governor's father, Jack McGreevey, is pictured at right.

## N.J. GOP: McGreevey should step down now

BY JOHN P. MCALPIN

The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — State Republicans on Friday said Gov. James E. McGreevey should step aside immediately, one day after the governor revealed he is gay, had an extramarital affair and will resign in November.

Joe Kyrrilos, chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee, called on McGreevey to "do the right thing" and step down right away. McGreevey on Thursday said he will resign Nov. 15.

McGreevey said the circumstances around his affair with a man and its effects on his family threatened to undermine his "ability to govern."

Kyrrilos on Friday said rumors about the affair, as well as his "suspicion that there will be more awkward stories in the days and weeks to come" prompted his call for McGreevey to quit immediately.

He should "resign now," Kyrrilos said at a late morning news conference.

A day earlier, McGreevey made his shocking revelation with his second wife at his side.

"My truth is that I am a gay American," McGreevey said. He described decades of sexual confusion that dogged him through two marriages and ultimately led him to an act he called "wrong, foolish and inexcusable."

McGreevey, 47, refused to answer questions. He said "it makes little difference that as governor I am gay," but added that staying in office and keeping the affair and his sexual orientation secret will leave the governor's office "vulnerable to rumors, false allegations and threats of disclosure."

McGreevey said his resignation would be effective Nov. 15 — 11 days after the coming general election.

Two sources close to McGreevey, both speaking on con-

dition of anonymity, said the man involved in the affair was Golan Cipel, an Israeli poet who met the governor during a trip to Israel.

One source, a senior McGreevey political adviser, said Cipel threatened McGreevey several weeks ago that unless he was paid "millions of dollars," Cipel would file a lawsuit charging the governor with sexual harassment.

Cipel could not be reached for comment. An FBI spokesman did not confirm reports that McGreevey's office called the bureau Thursday to complain about Cipel asking for money.

Cipel was named to the newly created post of homeland security adviser without any background check or official announcement.

Senate President Richard J. Codey, a Democrat, will become acting governor and serve out the remainder of McGreevey's term, which ends in early 2006. If McGreevey were to leave office before Sept. 3, a special election would be held.

Scandal marred McGreevey's tenure following questions over a series of questionable appointments, including Cipel's.

McGreevey also came under fire in 2002 for hiring a state police superintendent who had a criminal record. Last year, two former aides were targeted in a federal probe investigating whether they used their political ties to secure business for their bill-board company.

This year, a Democratic fund-raiser and former high school classmate of McGreevey's was charged with trying to extort campaign donations from a farmer in exchange for help in selling his land.

Last month, the governor's commerce secretary quit amid reports he funneled money to businesses he owned with family members, and McGreevey's top campaign donor was charged with conspiracy, obstructing a federal investigation and promoting prostitution.

## Peterson's girlfriend demanded truth

BY JOHN JOHNSON

Los Angeles Times

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Amber Frey, who until now had seemed almost naively dependent on Scott Peterson in their taped conversations, demanded that he tell her the truth about everything — including his wife's disappearance — in tapes played Thursday for the jury in his murder trial.

After weeks of what many observers called an uninspired prosecution case, jurors Thursday heard some of the most gripping evidence yet as Frey, Peterson's girlfriend, told him she suspected he might have murdered his pregnant wife.

"Oh, my God," Peterson cried on the tape of a phone call on Jan. 6, 2003, less than two weeks after Laci Peterson disappeared. "I hope you know me well enough (to know) that I could never do something like this."

No, she said, she didn't. Frey did not let up on the Modesto fertilizer salesman.

Although he never confessed to anything criminal in the lengthy, often tearful conversations Frey was recording for the Modesto police, some said it was the prosecution's best day thus far in the trial.

Peterson began dating Frey, a Fresno massage therapist with a young daughter, in late November 2002, claiming he was unmarried. In fact, Laci Peterson was eight months pregnant as Christmas approached.

With volunteers searching for Laci, Peterson tried to maintain his relationship with Frey and the

fiction he was single through dozens of phone calls, which the jury has been hearing over the last three days.

To explain his absence while working at the volunteer search center in Modesto, Peterson told Frey he was on a business trip in Europe.

Frey learned independently of the missing Modesto woman on Dec. 30 and contacted police, who asked her to record Peterson's calls in case he incriminated himself. After he didn't, and in fact talked happily about the future he and Frey would have, Frey decided to jar him by claiming a friend of hers had left a cryptic message warning her to be careful.

That provoked his confession that he was married and that his wife was missing. In that call Peterson said he had to tell Frey about "the worst thing in the world... The girl I'm married to, her name is Laci."

The trial resumes Monday, with more tape recordings.



Frey



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# Many see Nader as hardballer to democrats

BY CALVIN WOODWARD  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — He's dropped in polls that gave him one lonely digit to begin with and seen friends peel away — even fall to their knees begging him to quit.

Even a little bit of Ralph Nader is too much for Democrats who want to see him finish this race for the White House as nothing more than a pesky asterisk.

Nader has qualified for the presidential ballot in fewer than a dozen states and is solving on through a battery of deadlines this month in many other states, with Democrats or surrogates launching challenges wherever they find an opening.

Polls suggest the battle for the White House has narrowed to a small proportion of undecided voters, with the rest already sold on either Republican President Bush or Democrat John Kerry. In that circumstance, analysts say, these are not promising times for an independent.

"This is an election that is very important in people's minds — much more so than 2000," said Michael Dimock, research direc-

tor at the Pew Research Center. "People really think it matters who wins... They have very strong feelings about President Bush one way or the other. That dynamic, right there, is limiting Nader."

Nader has about 2 percent in Pew polls compared with 6 percent earlier, and has performed similarly in other surveys, leaving the chance he can reach the 15 percent threshold to qualify for the fall presidential debates.

"The negative impressions of him are much higher than four years ago," said Kathryn Bowman, who specializes in public opinion at the conservative American Enterprise Institute. "He has appeared to have worn out his welcome."

Democrats, who think he cost them the last election, still worry he's a menace on the

ballot. "The key is keeping his name off the ballot," said Democratic strategist Dan Strother. "If he makes the ballot in one or two or three swing states and siphons 3 or 4 points off Kerry, it's harmful."

"His entire race is an ego trip but he is a reality and he is going to affect the race on the margins."

Democrats still Nader off the Arizona ballot by uncovering irregularities in his petition signatures and are challenging tens of thousands of signatures elsewhere, including the battleground states of Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Beyond that, Nader blames intimidation of signature collectors and other Democratic "dirty tricks" for leaving him short of the required number of names in other states, including California. Even so, he's a likely player in swing-state Florida and may win ballot access in a few dozen states without onerous rules.

The liberal group United Progressives for Victory, which includes former Nader associates, is dedicated to his campaign's collapse. Dismantling him with praise, the group says

"the best way to support Nader's agenda this year is to oppose his candidacy."

When Nader went on Bill Maher's HBO program, the host and filmmaker Michael Moore, a Nader supporter in 2000 — begged on their knees for him to quit.

All this piling on doesn't dissuade the ornery activist. "He digs in with his heels," said spokesman Kevin Zeese.

A Reform Party endorsement probably will put Nader on the ballot in Florida, the state that lifted the last election to Bush and six states where he can run as an independent. He has also won a place in the ballot in New Jersey and Nevada.

Zeese contends Nader can still show up on 40-something state ballots. He was on 43 last time, when he won 2.7 percent of the vote.

Despite Nader's protestations that he wants to help drive Bush from office, Republicans are happy to have him around and have been lending an unsolicited hand. They believe, just as Democrats do, that Nader's support comes mainly from people who would otherwise vote for Kerry.

In Michigan, Republicans turned in most of the 50,000 signatures gathered to support Nader's candidacy.

## Bush: 'I'm the guy that cut taxes'

BY PETE YOST  
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — President Bush is distancing himself from suggestions that he wants to replace the federal income tax with a national sales tax, saying "People shouldn't worry about me raising taxes."

Bush created a stir earlier this week when, in response to a question from a supporter at a campaign forum in the Florida Panhandle, he said such a tax is "an interesting idea that we ought to explore seriously."

The administration quickly denied the president was seriously considering such a tax, and Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry suggested such a plan would impose a new burden on

working families.

Bush said Thursday night his point was "we ought to explore ways to simplify the tax code."

"I said it was an interesting idea," Bush said on CNN's "Larry King Live." "This is politics. People put words in your mouth. People shouldn't worry about me raising taxes. I'm the guy that cut taxes."

Bush has suggested an overhaul of the tax code would be a priority if he is re-elected.

Kerry said a national sales tax would be an insult to financially struggling voters and would amount to "one of the largest tax increases on the middle class in American history."

In the interview, Bush tried to portray Kerry as one who will raise taxes. Bush wants to elimi-

nate Bush's tax cuts for people making more than \$200,000 a year, and use the money to pay for health care, education and other needs.

"The tax code is way too complicated, but let me just make this clear so everybody understands," Bush said in the interview.

"I'm the guy that believes in reducing taxes and keeping them low. It's the other fellow that says he's going to raise taxes, and I think it'll be a mistake to raise taxes now."

Bush sat for the interview during a five-day campaign swing that included a stop in Los Angeles. He was embraced by two of the state's Republican icons, Nancy Reagan and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Bush was campaigning Friday in the Portland, Ore., area and in Washington state.

In the interview, Bush refused to condemn an independent ad accusing Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran, of lying about his war record and betraying fellow veterans by protesting the conflict after he returned home.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a former Vietnam prisoner of war who campaigned with Bush this week, denounced the ad and called on the White House to do the same. The White House declined.

"I haven't seen the ad, but what I do condemn is these regulated, soft-money expenditures" by outside groups that have filled the airwaves with attacks on both candidates, Bush said.

Bush said his opponent is justifiably proud of his record in Vietnam, but said the question is who can best lead the country in time of war, declaring "I think it's me. Because I understand the stakes."



Democratic Presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry speaks in Springfield, Ore., on Friday.

## Kerry: 3 rounds of Bush tax cuts favor rich most

BY MARY DALRYMPLE  
The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. — Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry on Friday assailed President Bush's tax cuts as a congressional report showed that three rounds of reductions lowered taxes for the wealthy.

"Over the last four years, the burden of taxes has shifted from the wealthy to the middle class," Kerry said at a front-porch event.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, in a report released Friday, said those in the top 1 percent of income got a bigger tax cut than those in the middle brackets. Kerry's economic platform calls for withdrawing tax cuts that went to those earning \$200,000 or more, but Bush has said those tax cuts benefit small business and other job creators.

The Bush-Cheney campaign defended the president's tax policies and argued that Kerry has voted to increase taxes. "The president has lowered taxes for every American," said campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt.

Kerry also said Bush's policies in Iraq have contributed to rising oil prices that have been one factor driving down stock prices in recent days. "The world is unstable right now. The marketplace is

unstable," Kerry said. "That hurts your jobs. That hurts your wallets."

Kerry's campaign said increasing oil prices saps consumers' spending powers, cuts into companies' profits and weakens consumer confidence. The campaign has criticized President Bush for promising to bring down the cost of gasoline by pressuring Middle Eastern oil-producing nations.

Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt said the president has a plan to lower oil prices, decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil and encourage development of renewable energy, but it's been blocked by Kerry and other Democratic senators.

"They'd rather play politics with high gas prices than do the hard work and help the president bring them down for the American people," he said.

Kerry has been touting a plan to reduce the nation's dependence on oil by replacing a portion of it with renewable fuels like gas produced from corn and soybeans. "We're going to declare America energy independent," Kerry said to a crowd in Central Point, Ore.

Stops in Oregon mark the end of the candidate's two-week trek by bus, train and ferry across the country to visit battleground states.

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## RELIGION



Episcopal Bishop John Bryson Chane stands on the grounds of the Washington (D.C.) National Cathedral. In June, Chane conducted the first ceremony for gay partners using his diocese's new liturgy.

## More Episcopal blessing unions for same-sex couples

BY RACHEL ZOLL  
The Associated Press

A vote last year that seemed like a defeat for gays in the Episcopal Church has, in a twist, led to an increasing number of dioceses developing just what advocates wanted — official services for same-sex unions.

At the tumultuous Episcopal national convention a year ago this week, bishops gutted a measure that would have authorized drafting a liturgy blessing gay partnerships.

But at least six dioceses have interpreted even the watered-down legislation that eventually passed as a go-ahead to develop services or policies for blessing same-gender couples, saying language in the resolution encouraged drafting the ceremonies in local parishes.

Several bishops had argued the measure was simply an acknowledgment that some parishes were already conducting the ceremonies, even though the church hadn't settled the question of whether the Bible bans gay sex.

But many other Episcopalians disagreed, pointing to a key section which recognized that "local faith communities are operating within the bounds of our common life as they explore and experience liturgies celebrating and blessing same-sex unions."

"As in many other dioceses, there had been blessings of

unions done secretly or quietly," said the Rev. Daniel Webster, spokesman for the Diocese of Utah, which in May approved three different liturgies for same-sex ceremonies. "What this said, and what the action of the General Convention allowed, was to do this in the open."

The Rev. Kendall Harmon, theologian for the conservative Diocese of South Carolina, was among traditionalists who predicted a year ago that the measure would lead to more same-sex blessing ceremonies, despite what some bishops said. He accused Episcopal leaders of playing down the import of the legislation to mask its real intent.

Among the other U.S. dioceses moving forward with the services or developing liturgies based on the resolution are Vermont, Washington, D.C., North Carolina, Long Island and Massachusetts — where the state's highest court declared gay marriage legal.

Some additional dioceses, including Delaware and New Hampshire, had authorized same-gender blessings before last year's convention. Many Anglican leaders have condemned the American church for last year consecrating Bishop V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, who lives openly with his male partner. These leaders, called primates, have also separated themselves from an Anglican diocese in Canada that authorized same-gender ceremonies.

# Catholic sexual abuse cases against nuns now being filed

BY ELLEN R. STAPLETON

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The sexual abuse crisis in the Roman Catholic Church has focused primarily on molestation by priests, but in Louisville, two dozen people are now suing an order of nuns that staffed an orphanage decades ago.

The allegations include some accusing nuns of molestation as well as charges against a now-deceased priest. While experts agree the incidence of abuse by nuns has been much less frequent than assaults by male clergy, the phenomenon has gained some attention recently.

The initial Kentucky lawsuit against the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth was brought by seven plaintiffs July 15, just over a year after 243 people reached a \$25.7 million abuse settlement with the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Some plaintiffs have accused the Rev. Herman J. Lammers of molesting or raping them. He was a long-time Catholic Charities director who served as the resident chaplain at St. Thomas-St. Vincent Orphanage, which the sisters ran from 1952 until it closed in 1983. Lammers died in 1986.

But there are also allegations against about a dozen nuns.

Almost all those plaintiffs, ages 38 to 72, are women who claim the sisters molested them and beat them with leather straps while they lived at the orphanage, sometimes making them stand naked in front of others or locking them in closets without food.

"As women, they should want to protect children," said 30-year-old Landa Mauriello-Vernon of Ham-

den, Conn., who has an unrelated lawsuit pending against a nun and the Catholic school she attended in New England.

Mauriello-Vernon is leading a national awareness campaign for the Survivors Network for Those Abused by Priests.

"What we're really doing is reaching out to the victims and educating parents and grandparents that not all women are safe," Mauriello-Vernon said. "But I think our country will have a pretty hard time hearing that."

There have been several other examples of lawsuits targeting nuns. A Boston suit filed in May included allegations by nine people who said they were abused by more than a dozen nuns at a Catholic school for the deaf.

Jeff Anderson, a Minnesota attorney, said he has represented more than 1,000 people over 22 years in cases involving priests or religious men, but has only handled about a half-dozen involving nuns.

"That tells you something. The whole phenomenon of nuns abusing is somewhat recent," said Anderson, who believes many nuns who abused minors were exploited by male clergy themselves.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth is a 192-year-old order of 650 nuns that provides education, health care and social services in the United States, India, Belize, Nepal and Botswana.

Spokeswoman Barbara Qualls said the community has had as many as 1,600 nuns.

The order and its attorney have denied that they have any evidence of abuse or a cover-up at the orphanage — which was owned by the archdiocese through Catholic Charities — or at three schools which are mentioned in the suits.

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# 'Please help save my life'

## Houston man with cancer uses billboards, Net in search of liver donor

By JUAN A. LOZANO

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Todd Krampitz's message to the world is simple: He needs a liver to save his life.

But the methods he is using to deliver his plea are unique, employing all the characteristics of a multimedia advertising blitz, including billboards, a Web site, a toll-free number and media interviews.

The two billboards along one of Houston's busiest freeways each announce "I Need A Liver Please Help Save My Life!" The Web site offers Krampitz's story and a flier to print out and post.

Krampitz, 32, was diagnosed in May with liver cancer and by July his doctors said only a transplant would save his life. He is hoping for a directed donation, meaning a family would ask that their loved one's harvested liver go to Krampitz.

"Unfortunately, tragedies happen every day," the Web site says. "If you hear of anyone that is in a situation where they could be a donor, they or their family can request that the liver be designated to Todd Krampitz."

The liver is the second most commonly transplanted major organ, after the kidney, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, which coordinates the nation's organ transplant system. As of July 30, there were 17,471 people nationwide waiting for a liver transplant, with 1,155 of them from Texas.

Krampitz's sister came up with the idea for the billboards, but his wife was hesitant at first, worried about perceptions that her husband is unfairly trying to get a liver ahead of others. But she believes he should be at the top of the list because the cancer could endanger the rest of his body.

The family bought space on two billboards along one of Houston's busiest freeways. They feature a photo of Todd, his plea, a Web site address and toll-free number, 1-888-How-U-Can.

"We are going to take as much action as we can to make things happen for Todd to survive," said Julie Krampitz, who married her high school sweetheart in March.

While it's not uncommon for people to buy billboards or build Web sites to advertise themselves for work, Krampitz's situation is unique because it is so personal and involves a life or death situation, said David Jones, vice president of strategy and planning for Energy Creative Partners, a Los Angeles-based advertising agency.

However, the United Network for Organ Sharing believes public pleas for directed donations run the risk of bypassing the established allocation system, said Dr. Mark Fox, chairman of the organization's ethics committee.

There are different criteria for different organs that regulate transplants. With livers, the sickest patients are at the top of the list.



Above: One of two billboards asking for help for liver cancer patient Todd Krampitz hangs along a Houston highway last week. Krampitz is in need of a liver transplant and his wife and family are advertising his plight with billboards and a Website. Below: Julie and Todd Krampitz pose outside a Houston studio last week.

"Those criteria are explicit and they are clinically based," said Fox, with the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in Tulsa. Krampitz's family has been flooded with e-mails and telephone calls since the campaign started last month. Four potential donors didn't work out for medical or age reasons.

While the primary goal of the media blitz is to find a liver donor, Krampitz said he feels the family is also performing a public service. "It's really getting the word out there that people need to let their loved ones know that they want to donate their organs."



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## Sunday Horoscope

The new moon in Leo is not only a fresh start, it's like a gunshot announcing the start of the race. Mercury is still retrograde, though, so you may sprout a few yards, metaphorically speaking, and then double back to make sure you really went as far as you thought you did. Mercury retrogrades can come with a touch of paranoia.

**Joyce Jillson**

### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(Aug. 15).** Your relationships are fortified in every way this year — you're really coming into your own, showing the world who you are. Signs find romance through mutual friends in the next three weeks. A December vacation is like a dream come true — after working so hard, you'll need it. You click with Sagittarius and Libra — marriage is a fabulous idea.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Be as objective as you can in regard to your own life — try and see the patterns. Old baggage could cause you to repeat a bad decision. Stay clear of mesmerizing but off-of-control new loves. Things exciting, they're dangerous.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The spotlight is on you just when you're feeling the shyest. Many people believe that hoarding one's talents is a sin — rise to the occasion when asked to share yours. Choose the most natural remedies to stay healthy.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Friends have over you — it almost feels strange. A surge in enthusiasm over something you did in the past renews your ambitions. You may wonder — what took them so long? You may as well soak up the praise while it's coming.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your center of gravity shifts. What was important seems less so, as different values now dictate your life. A new romantic relationship can bring plenty of gain to your life if you're willing to sacrifice some of your independence.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** It's gratifying to develop what interests you personally. Romance is born out of your need to first explore the

world on your own terms. Don't worry about how long you'll be single — the world is not Noah's ark.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** In every way, you are intent on lightening your load. Use carefree (but effective) people as your guides. You'll see progress just as soon as you eliminate the elements you no longer need, whether physical or emotional.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Attain the perfect energetic flow between mind and body is your goal. Exercise that emphasizes the positive power of your mind helps you achieve this worthy aim. Think of all you'll give back when you're feeling stronger.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** A scorpion continues. The one thing not to do is settle in when your heart doesn't agree. Pay attention to signals coming from your body. Someone who is perfect "on paper" doesn't have the inner qualities you need.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You'll hit a rare period of intercession. The insights others offer you may sound like old news, but there's a reason you keep hearing the same advice. Consider that your advisers might actually be right.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** A sort of uprising is featured. You know what you stand for, what's right and what you can no longer tolerate. It does not mean to give lip service, though. Let your action tell the story instead of your mouth.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You're organized, focused and efficient, so it really bugs you that others dawdle. Speak up before you're blamed for someone else's laziness. Don't let competence and transportation glitches keep you from what's important.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Exceptions to the rule are bound to come up, so be flexible. Let yourself relax and enjoy what others bring to your life. Employ your humor when family members get testy. With little diplomacy, you'll come out on top.

Creators Syndicate

## Curious about "nosey parker"

Where did the expression "nosey parker" come from?

"Nobody is quite sure how a bushy name came to be known as a 'nosey parker.' There are a couple of theories, though.

Since this chiefly British term is often capitalized, it's often thought that its origins lie with an excessively inquisitive person having the surname 'Parker.'

One candidate that has been suggested is Matthew Parker, an English Archbishop of Canterbury from 1559 to 1575, and who was famous for keeping a close eye on the private lives of those living in his diocese.

However, the first recorded

use of "Nosey Parker" dates from 1907, and it's unlikely that memories of the curious cleric simmered for almost 400 years before surfacing in the 20th century.

Until the 1880s, in fact, the word "nosey" (or "nosy") simply described a person with a large nose and had no connection to an overly inquisitive nature.

An even less plausible theory suggests that "nosey parkers" were people who frequented London's Hyde Park and spied on amorous couples.

This column was prepared by the editors of the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

## Deplored husband's cheating shakes wife's trust in spouse

**Dear Abby:** I am the wife of an Army soldier who has been deployed to Honduras for six months. In a telephone call a couple of weeks ago, he confessed that he had cheated on me since he left. He said he has cut off all contact with this local woman, yet he continues to go to the bar where they met. He says I should trust him because he's told me about the infidelity, and I should trust that he won't do it again.

But, Abby, how can I trust him when he lied to me all this time? I know he is stressed because he's away from home, but the stresses of him not being home are equally hard on me and the children.

How do I get over this and start trusting my husband again?

— **Confused Army Wife in Alaska**

**Dear Confused:** If your husband hadn't have a conscience, he wouldn't have confessed his indiscretion to you. However, your concerns are valid. Tell your husband that, as proof of his contrition, you want him promise that he will avoid not only that bar, but any other tempting situations that might present themselves when he's away.

Once he returns, marriage counseling to heal the breach he

has caused would be a giant step in the right direction.

With professional help, the two of you can get past this.

**Dear Abby:** As your readers mature, some of them are among the 9 million older Americans who have some signs of age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Nearly 2 million struggle to read because of it. AMD is a painless disease. It sometimes develops so slowly that people notice little change in their vision. But AMD blurs the sharp, central vision needed for

"straight-ahead" activities, like reading, sewing and driving. There are two forms of AMD: wet and dry. Wet AMD is the more serious form. It's caused by new blood vessels that grow at the back of the eye and then bleed. Usually the first symptom is when straight lines begin to look wavy. If you have dry AMD, the most common symptom is a slight blurring. You may also have trouble recognizing faces, and you may need brighter light to read or perform other tasks.

The good news is, recent clinical trials show that a combination of high-dose vitamins and minerals can slow AMD and

vision loss. Many advances in technology are also providing effective solutions to AMD and other age-related vision problems.

Please encourage readers who suspect they may have AMD or other vision problems, who are over the age of 60, or have diabetes, to consult an eye health-care professional as soon as possible. Thank you for helping to make vision a health priority.

— **Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D.,**

Director,

National Eye Institute  
*Dear Dr. Sieving: I'm pleased to spread the word. The subject may not be "sexy," but it's important.*

Readers, any change in vision should be immediately reported to your doctor. This includes blurring of vision, "floaters" or lights or an increased number of "floaters."

Before leaving your vision, ask your doctor which kind is most helpful.

The federal government's National Eye Institute provides a wealth of information to help people of all ages maintain healthy vision via its Web site: [www.nei.nih.gov](http://www.nei.nih.gov).

Letters for this column — with your name and address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, St. Louis, Mo. 63166. Please e-mail to Abby on the Internet at [abby@nyc.rr.com](mailto:abby@nyc.rr.com) or [abby@earthlink.net](mailto:abby@earthlink.net).  
Universal Press Syndicate

## Retired husband has taken to smoking marijuana often

**Dear Annie:** My husband, "Wally," and I were fortunate enough to retire three years ago. We are in our 50s and financially secure.

Since that time, Wally has been using marijuana at an increasing rate. He always used on occasion, but now it's two or three times a week.

This does not make me happy. The illicit high is not worth the humiliation should his use be revealed publicly.

Wally has promised to cut back or quit, but he has repeatedly failed to keep his word. This is a constant source of conflict between us. When he comes home high, he can't understand why I have no interest in responding to his romantic overtures. The reason is I am angry and frustrated that he has so little respect for my position on this issue.

We recently have begun counseling. Wally freely acknowledged that he never would have achieved his professional success if he had been a regular marijuana user while working, yet he has no intention of giving it up.

Many of our social contacts would be horrified if they knew of his habit. We have been married for 37 years, and I still love him, but I certainly don't like him much when he's high. I don't want a divorce, but this difference between us is a growing chasm. I fear someday our marriage will be in name only.

I need advice on my reaction to his use. My anger is not helping the situation. Any suggestions?

— **Wife of a Pothead**  
*Dear Wife: Wally has formed a habit he finds difficult to kick.*

Continue with your counseling and also look into Nar-Anon (naranon.com) for families of drug users. The address is: Nar-Anon World Service Office, 2527 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite 200 B, Torrance, CA 90505.

**Dear Annie:** I've been friends with a co-worker for three years.

Nancy and I always had lunch together and talked. One day, I noticed she was cold toward me. I tried to talk to her, but she refused to listen and ignored me when we saw each other. Finally,

I wrote her a note asking what the problem was. I told her I had no idea why she was upset and apologized for anything I may have said or done.

She wrote back, "I'd rather not talk about it." I want to know why she is angry with me so I can straighten it out or at least defend myself. It's been six months, and nothing has changed.

I have not spoken to anyone at work about the rift, although I'm sure they've noticed that Nancy and I are avoiding each other. Annie, I make friends, it's for life. What should I do?

— **Bewildered in Los Angeles**

**Dear L.A.:** It's possible Nancy saw something, or a co-worker told her something, that hurt her so badly she cannot forgive you. Go to her in person. Say, "I don't know what I did to make you so angry, but I miss you and want to make things right. Please give me another chance." Invite her to lunch so you can hash it out. If it doesn't work, at least you will know you gave it your best shot.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Matlock and Marcy Spahr, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.  
Creators Syndicate

**Dear Abby**



Abby Cadabby



## SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

## Walter Scott's Personality

## PARADE®

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

**Q** I heard that the fiancé of Court TV legal analyst Nancy Grace was murdered. Is it true? — Natalie Johnson, Bloomington, Ill.  
**A** Yes, Grace's fiancé — Keith Griffin, a baseball star at Valdosta State in Georgia — was shot by a criminal in 1980. That horrific event may color her legal analysis of such accused murderers as O.J. Simpson and Scott Peterson. A former prosecutor, Grace will publish her views of the criminal justice system in "Objection!," due out next June.

**Q** George W. Bush has occupied the White House for almost four years, yet little is known about his personal preferences. Can you fill in the blanks? — J. Brinkley, Los Angeles

**A** He's a man of simple tastes whose favorite foods are peanut butter (creamy, not chunky) and jelly sandwiches and Fritos. According to Ronald Kessler's "A Matter of Character: Inside the White House of George W. Bush," just out, the health-conscious President brings his own treadmill and nonallergenic pillows on long trips.

**Q** My son says Nicole Kidman sang on a CD by British pop star Robbie Williams. Was it released here? — W. Skeem, Twin Falls, Idaho

**A** Only on DVD. Nicole, 37, became friendly with Robbie, 30, after they met socially, and she lent her voice to a playful remake of "Somethin' Stupid" on his 2001 CD "Swing When You're Winning." It was only released in Europe, but an American DVD titled "Live at the Albert" features a video of Robbie and Nicole's duet. Incidentally, Robbie sings the title song in the film "De-Lovely."

**Q** What's happened to Debra Paget, one of the most exotic film stars of the 1950s? — Robert H., Norwalk, Conn.  
**A** Best known as the love interest in "Bird of Paradise" and "Broken Arrow," Paget was married three times; for four months to Texas oilman Ling-Chieh Kung. The reclusive star, who turns 71 this week at her Houston home, says: "I don't want to be contacted by anyone about anything."

**Q** Oprah Winfrey proved she could act in "The Color Purple." Why don't we see more of her on the big screen? — Nyasha Smith, Hartford, Conn.

**A** Because she's been busy running the No. 1 TV talk show and a successful magazine. But a close friend tells us, "Oprah certainly is



KRT

The talented actress Oprah Winfrey arrives at the 76th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles on Feb. 29.



AP

Hugh Jackman, left, star of the Broadway hit "The Boy From Oz," talks with New York Yankees manager Joe Torre before a game Aug. 3. "Oz" producers say they won't do a film version of the show without Jackman.

open to the right role." We hope Hollywood is listening.

**Q** Any chance that Hugh Jackman will do a film version of "The Boy From Oz," his Broadway hit about Peter Allen? — Kay Rice, Edwards, Ill.

**A** More than just a chance. The producers tell us they wouldn't dream of doing an "Oz" film without the multitalented Jackman, 35. But it will have to wait until after the Broadway show closes next month and Jackman shoots Darren Aronofsky's sci-fi film "The Fountain." There also are discussions to bring stage versions to London and Sydney, and we suspect its producers will launch the show in other big cities to earn the maximum before putting "Oz" on film.

**Q** Geena Davis recently had twins at 48. Did she need special medical assistance? — R.C., Boston, Mass.

**A** Geena isn't talking, but it is likely that the actress used an egg donor to conceive her sons, Kian and Kaiis. They were delivered via C-section. Davis and her fourth husband, surgeon Reza Jarraby, 33, also have a daughter Alizeh, 2.

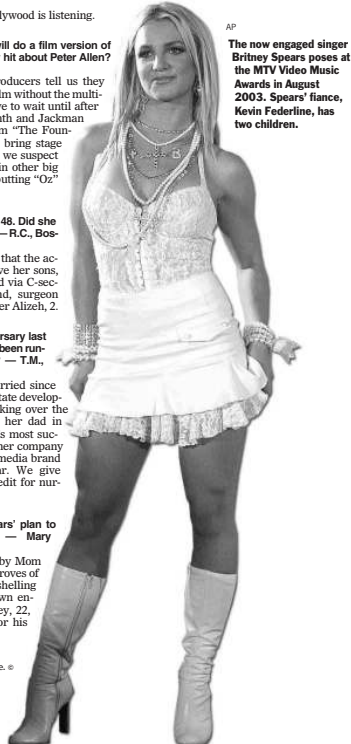
**Q** Playboy celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. How long has Christie Hefner been running the magazine? Is she married? — T.M., Marietta, Ga.

**A** Christie Hefner, 51, has been married since 1995 to William Marovitz, a real-estate developer. They have no children. Since taking over the reins of Playboy Enterprises from her dad in 1988, she's become one of America's most successful businesswomen, expanding her company into a consumer products and multimedia brand that generates \$320 million a year. We give mega-male chauvinist Hugh, 78, credit for nurturing his daughter's potential.

**Q** What's your take on Britney Spears' plan to wed dancer Kevin Federline? — Mary McLaughlin, Devon, Pa.

**A** We're hoping for an intervention by Mom. Spears, though she apparently approves of the union. We assume that, after shelling out \$40,000 to Kevin, 26, for her own engagement ring, the befuddled Britney, 22, will end up paying child support for his two out-of-wedlock kids.

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The now engaged singer Britney Spears poses at the MTV Video Music Awards in August 2003. Spears' fiancé, Kevin Federline, has two children.

## STARS AND STRIPES

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Be grateful AAFES sells gas

I'm compelled to respond to Steven G. Burns' Aug. 6 letter regarding the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's gas prices in South Korea ("Nothing leaves driver fuming"). He came up with some ideas for what is a whopping nickel above the U.S. average for the four-week period and fuel grade that he is assuming AAFES is basing its prices on. His reasons were: "Maybe it is a different four weeks AAFES is averaging, or maybe AAFES is using another formula or maybe it is just adding a nickel to the price for profit (even though it is a nonprofit organization)." But wait, I think he forgot one more idea: Maybe he could just hush up about it and realize that things like overseas fuel prices are precisely why he gets an overseas cost of living adjustment (which I've researched for Osan Air Base, where Mr. Burns is based, and found to range from \$85 to around \$500/month for different ranks, and \$108 to \$680/month for officer ranks, based on years of service, number of dependents, and whether the servicemember resides in the barracks).

Nowhere does it state that the military is required to even provide us with gasoline on base. It's a perk, and one that Mr. Burns would do well to be thankful for. Has he checked the price of gas on the local economy? Would he rather pay that amount? Does he also realize that, if he were living state-side in one of the areas where gas is on the high side of average, he would not get a COLA to cover that extra cost?

Take a moment, Mr. Burns, and look at all the things the military does to make your overseas move pleasant, many of them at absolutely no cost to you. I'd be willing to bet that the "extra nickel per gallon" that you think you're paying for gas doesn't begin to come close to the COLA that shows up in your account each month. Even if you used an unaffathomable 100 gallons of gas each month, we're talking about \$5. Think about it, and then stop the unnecessary whining.

Cheryl Smith  
Yokosuka, Japan

## BDU top offers protection

I read the Aug. 3 letter "BDU rule is nonsense" and have to wonder if the author received a blow to the head while not wearing his "heavy, uncomfortable" Kevlar in Kuwait. Not wearing the battle dress uniform

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values the opinions of its importance in the lives of its readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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top places soldiers at more risk for heat injury as the sun beats down directly on the skin. Were it not for the BDU top insulating you, your body temperature would be a little higher, putting you more at risk for heat injury, sweat's going to evaporate faster and many soldiers will feel they're not sweating as much, so won't hydrate as much — more risk.

If you have four or five soldiers who need IVs on a daily basis, then noncommissioned officers are not doing their jobs by taking care of soldiers and enforcing the standards. Ensure soldiers hydrate, eat properly and get their rest — that is how you prevent heat injuries, not by taking your top off.

As far as the complaint about wearing the Kevlar: There may have been no bullets flying around the letter writer's last week, but there are certainly real dangers here in Kuwait. People who dislike Americans do have weapons, there are such things in the world as IEDs, and there are accidents. The Army Safety Center and the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory have the research to show that wearing the Kevlar helmet can reduce head injuries by as much as 29 percent in an accident (with no statistical relation to neck injuries, such as whiplash, as some claim).

The writer complains that it is uncomfortable.

able and heavy — if he wore his Kevlar a little more, he might get used to it or find out that it's not really much heavier than other protective headgear, such as motorcycle helmets.

I don't always like wearing my shirt, but I do so for my safety and because it is a petty issue to complain about.

Sgt. Marcus J. Kitos  
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

## Whining doesn't wear well

I just read the Aug. 3 letter "BDU rule is nonsense." Maybe the writer would like to come to Forward Operating Base Summerall for a while. We not only have to wear our complete uniform in convoys but also on the base when not under cover. The uniform has been downgraded two times for perhaps a total of five weeks.

We also drive convoys. We drive them in the vehicles that have the add-on armor as well as other vehicles, most of which don't have the nice big windows of a heavy-equipment transporter or shield shields on the engines.

It isn't our job as NCOs to make the policies, but it is our job to enforce them and not whine about them to soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class David Delisio  
Forward Operating Base Summerall, Iraq

## Fox offers 'fresh air'

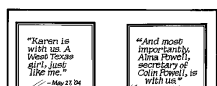
I sometimes believe that Stars and Stripes prints letters just to elicit reaction from its audience. A case in point was "Too much Fox News on AFN" (Aug. 9).

Well, the letter writer sure got my dander up. There are just too many anti-Fox News articles. He complained about American Forces Network airing too much of Fox News during the Democratic National Convention. Thank God! At least we got a "fair and balanced" view of things that we would not have gotten from MSNBC and the three major networks.

Just think what we would have gotten if the major networks were aired glorifying Sen. John Kerry and bashing President Bush. We have had enough of that for the past couple of decades and we now have an alternative in Fox.

Admittedly, it is conservative leaning, but they do honestly present both sides of the picture. What a breath of fresh air. I would not complain if AFN had Fox News on 24/7.

Wayne H. Smith  
Einsiedlerhof, Germany



## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Past errors demand intel chief  
York (Pa.) Daily Record

First of all, let's stop calling it a czar. Wrong country. Wrong connotation. But let's do call the proposed new position a Cabinet member.

Probably the most important suggestion from the bipartisan 9/11 commission's exhaustive and unanimously endorsed study of anti-terrorism efforts was that we need one person in charge of America's 15 intelligence-gathering agencies.

One person to coordinate the spy efforts of the CIA, the FBI and the Defense Department, which controls the majority of the intelligence budget. One woman or man who can sift through the mountains of information collected, make sure the various agencies are sharing and cooperating, and find the terrorist needles in the haystack before they find their targets. ...

He or she would be in charge of the CIA, the FBI and various other agencies — or at least the intelligence aspects of their budgets. That person would have budgetary control, the ability to hire and fire certain directors. In other words, the juice to get things done.

What good is a national intelligence director who doesn't have the power to make tight-guarding bureaucrats work together? Isn't that what we already had with Richard Clarke? President Bush should open up his CIA, tear down some of the canned clouds, and make room for an intel chief.

Timing bad for overhaul  
The Herald, Rock Hill, S.C.

Election-year politics are fueling plans to install a new terror czar to oversee the nation's intelligence operations. But the hasty efforts to overhaul the way intelligence agencies confront terrorism may produce results the nation comes to regret. ...

We think that, contrary to the call for immediate action, the nation should take some time to critically review the commission's proposals and consider which would actually improve our ability to counter the terrorist threat. And while the [9/11] commission report outlines glaring failures on the part of intelligence agencies, we aren't convinced that a complete overhaul and a new bureaucracy are the answer. ...

We do not mean to belittle the importance of dealing with the threat of terrorism or the work of the 9/11 commission. In fact, we think Congress should empower the commission to remain intact and continue working in any capacity possible.

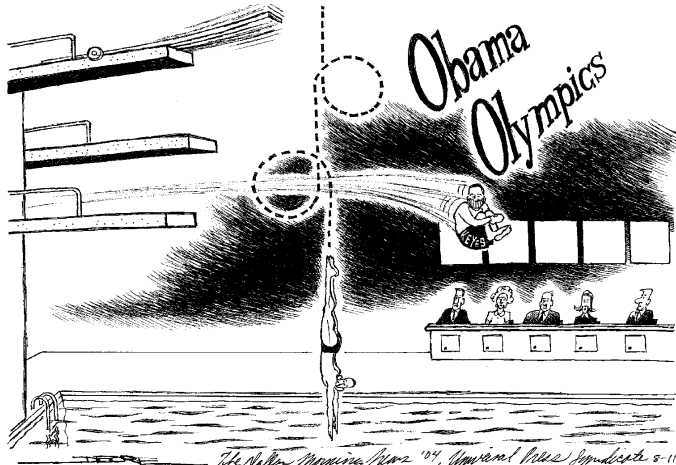
We fear that a wholesale intelligence shake-up conducted in the heat of a presidential campaign could do more harm than good.

No Electoral College end runs  
The Daily Sentinel,  
Grand Junction, Colo.

The United States doesn't hold a popular vote for president. It holds 50 of them. In each of the 50 states, the winner of the popular vote wins all of that state's electoral votes. So what Democrats are trying to change that in Colorado so that a presidential candidate would get only a proportion of the state's electoral votes based on the number of popular votes he or she received.

The group Make Your Vote Count has turned its petition drive for the proposed change on the ballot in November. And Gov. Bill Owens immediately declared he would like to see it approved.

He is right to do so for several reasons. First, despite the denial of initiative backers, the measure is designed to help John Kerry fall if he doesn't approve it. It would take effect immediately, before Colorado's electoral votes are cast in December.



Beyond this year's election, however, the measure would be a disaster for Colorado voters. Rather than making their votes count more, they would count less. If candidates could not be assured of winning all nine Colorado electoral votes upon winning the popular vote here, they would have little incentive to focus on Colorado. States with large numbers of electoral votes ... would become even more important.

A 'shout out' to stop rudeness  
Press-Republican, Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Teresa Heinz Kerry may not have reacted ideally to hecklers along the campaign trail, but it's the hecklers who ought to be apologizing. Heinz Kerry, the billionaire wife of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, was speaking at a rally recently, when pro-Bush spectators began interrupting her with shouts, "Four more years," to which she responded, "Four more years of hell." For that, she is being reviled by Republicans and excoriated by some in the media. It's hard to see why she should be either reviled or excoriated. She isn't the one who started the row. She simply replied to it in the candid fashion.

Each year, the campaign trail becomes littered more and more with examples of impoliteness and unabashedly rude behavior. The hecklers ... were interrupting a woman invited to deliver a message to an audience. How many people, talking face to face with someone, would drown out the conversation by chanting over the other person's observation? That is plainly beyond tolerable.

Whether Heinz Kerry will define for America once and for all the kind of person who will be the archetype of the presidential possessor will await history. But, surely, neither she nor any other candidate's wife should have to abide such rudeness when stating her opinion.

Payout woe shouldn't crop up  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Talk about a disappointing harvest. A federal initiative that was supposed to reverse years of government bias in lending to thousands of African-American farmers has come up far short.

While the U.S. Department of Agriculture pledged to pay as much as \$2.3 billion to tens of thousands of farmers and their families, only about one-third that amount has been distributed. ...

A 1999 legal settlement committed Wash-

ington to redressing racial bias in federal loan programs that all but crippled the livelihoods of thousands of African-American farmers.

Over decades, black farmers were denied loans routinely, or loaned less than white farmers whose credit ratings were similar. The result was a devastating attrition rate, with 40 percent of the nation's black farmers leaving the land since the early 1980s. The legal settlement of farmers' claims called for restitution in the form of expedited cash awards starting at \$50,000 for each farmer. Existing federal loans ranging up to \$150,000 per farm also were to be forgiven, and other steps were planned to provide technical assistance needed to help sustain African-American farmers. ...

Given the shameful bias black farmers were subjected to for years, federal officials should have made sure red tape didn't snarl claims. Instead, their dismal track record has sown more injustice.

Lock door, throw away Keys  
Rochester (N.Y.)  
Democrat and Chronicle

Alan Keyes, a conservative commentator from Maryland, probably won't be able to call Sen. Hillary Clinton for advice on planning a listening tour in Illinois, where he recently entered the Senate race.

Four years ago, he was busy hatching her for seeking a Senate seat in a state in which she'd never lived and calling her candidacy a "destruction of federalism." Yet Keyes has foolishly agreed to parachute into Illinois to oppose rising Democratic star Barack Obama.

His out-of-state candidacy isn't the problem. Though this page expressed concern about Hillary Clinton's initial inexperience with matters of New York, she has worked hard to understand the state's needs and represents New York well.

As a former ambassador to the United Nations, a former staff member of the National Security Council and a former Republican presidential candidate, Keyes is equipped to be a national leader. But his impressive credentials should have led him to turn down a candidacy this demeaning.

People value anti-terror arrests  
The Denver Post

A string of raids and arrests across the world may signify welcome progress in the war on terrorism — and simultaneously indi-

cate the ongoing nature of terrorist preparations. ...

Americans and their allies also can hope that the arrests demonstrate improved cooperation and communication among intelligence operatives — a key recommendation of the Sept. 11 commission's report.

The failures before Sept. 11, 2001, are now well documented. Prior to that, cooperation wasn't a priority for the agencies, but "the attacks of 9/11 changed everything," the report noted.

Anti-terror units should be applauded for their recent actions, for it is an ominous time and the arrests underscore worldwide dangers. With the Olympics [now under way] and the U.S. elections growing closer, the public has reason to be vigilant even as law enforcement personnel are making progress.

Goss protected pre-9/11 CIA  
Los Angeles Times

Congressional Democrats complain that Rep. Porter Goss, whom President Bush nominated Tuesday to head the CIA, isn't a good choice because he's been sniping at presidential candidate John Kerry. They're wrong. The chief problem with Goss, a Florida Republican, isn't that he's too partisan. It's that Goss has been a paty for the agency he's now supposed to reform.

Goss has glittering credentials. The Yale-graduate-turned-CIA-operative amassed considerable experience in covert operations during the 1960s. But the nostalgic haze through which he views the days of the good old boys at the CIA distorted his work with the agency in Congress. As head of the House Intelligence Committee, Goss was responsible for congressional oversight of the CIA before Sept. 11, or more precisely, the lack of it. He's been a tenuous defender of the CIA's perks and privileges and shielded it from any real scrutiny. ...

Goss' passivity suits Bush perfectly. ... He won't fire any senior staff. Most likely, he won't do much of anything. Goss, who has lobbied furiously for the job, including carrying the law for the administration by attacking Kerry, would be happy simply to get the post.

If Bush had more self-confidence, he would have selected someone who would start reforming the CIA, which would mean occasion challenging the president. ...

Bush declared that Goss knows the agency "inside and out." Indeed he does. Unfortunately, Goss loves the CIA not wisely but too well.

## College party a hoax

**VA** RICHMOND — Bad news for Washington and Lee University graduates who thought they'd get to have a drink in Lee Chapel: the invitation to a paid fund-raiser that included a cocktail hour in the historic chapel is a hoax.

Three alumni reported receiving an e-mail invitation to a New Year's Eve party and performances by country singer Ricky Skaggs and reggae artist Mikey Dread. Lee Chapel is a National Historic Landmark and burial site of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

The three-day Lexington event on Dec. 31 would cost \$1,500 a person and raise money for Project Hope, a minority recruitment program, the phony invitation said.

"The way that they were proposing it was a really good idea," said Rob Mish, director of alumni programs at the private liberal arts school in Lexington. University lawyers are investigating and Mish sent out about 12,000 e-mails warning alumni to be on the lookout. One of the three recipients reported receiving an email virus attached to his invitation.

## Poverty issues protested

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Advocates for the homeless held a tent city at the foot of the State House to highlight the lack of low-income and affordable housing in Rhode Island, and to lobby for better conditions at some shelters. The Rhode Island Emergency Shelter Information Project's annual report found that unaffordable rents drove a record 5,686 people from shelters last year. It also found that rent is unaffordable for half of Rhode Islanders.

## Nuns to document trip

**KY** MAPLE MOUNT — The Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph in Daviess County will use digital and satellite technology to give the world real-time updates on a flatboat trip they plan to make down the Ohio River. There will be regular reports filed to an Internet web site. The five-day trip, from Louisville to Owensboro, will re-create a journey made 130 years ago by five nuns. They were the nuns who left Louisville to establish a school for the growing Catholic community in Maple Mount.

## Test scores rising

**SD** PIERRE — South Dakota students improved in the second round of testing required by a federal education improvement law, the state Education Department said. Officials said 71 percent of the 66,159 public school students who took tests this spring were competent or advanced in math, compared to 59 percent last year. Seventy-seven percent were capable in reading, compared to 71 percent in 2003.

## Camp for non-believers

**MN** MOUND — Atheists and humanists in Minnesota just finished the state's first summer camp for children who don't believe in God. "The Secular Summer Camp" at Camp Quest Minnesota was modeled after an Ohio



camp for atheist children that has been in operation for nine years. Camp co-founder August Berkshire says the camp will focus on critical thinking and skepticism.

## New campus to be built

**AZ** PHOENIX — The presidents of the University of Arizona and Arizona State University said they're setting aside decades of academic rivalry by agreeing to build a new joint medical campus downtown. The planned Phoenix Biomedical Campus of the Arizona University System will be a joint project of UA's medical and pharmacology colleges and ASU's nursing college.

## Ship prepares for sinking

**AK** JUNEAU — A 70-foot ship is being prepared for sinking in Juneau's Auke Bay, where it will join another vessel at the state's first artificial reef. Volunteers with the Alaska Artificial Reef Society stripped and cleaned the Arctic Tern to Coast Guard specifications to get it ready for its new home 70 feet below the surface. The park was created to encourage diving in the area.

## No prison for debtors

**TN** MEMPHIS — Lauderdale County officials agreed in federal court to stop running what amounts to a debtors' prison.

The agreement stems from a lawsuit

suit by two men who say they were arrested or threatened with arrest over debts that can only be collected through civil court proceedings.

The county's general sessions court issued arrest warrants for Lester C. Smith and William M. Robinson for failure to pay \$200 each in court costs from unrelated misdemeanor cases.

Under state law, court costs are civil debts for which a debtor cannot be jailed. Federal Judge J. Daniel Breen said such arrests violate the 13th Amendment ban on slavery and involuntary servitude.

Smith and Robinson were awarded damages of \$1,000 each, but the main purpose of the lawsuit, Hutton said, was to force the county to end its practice of jailing people because of civil debts.

## Disaster aid continues

**NJ** MOUNT LAUREL — Disaster aid is flowing to Burlington and Camden counties less than a month after rains and flood caused widespread damage to homes and businesses. The U.S. Small Business Administration said it has processed 23 disaster loans and has issued \$1.3 million to business, homeowners and displaced renters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency received 2,010 applications for aid as of Sunday night, said a spokeswoman.

## New electricity ruling

**OH** COLUMBUS — The Ohio Supreme Court ruled electric utilities may charge new home buyers the costs of extending electric service to previously undeveloped areas. The charges include a one-time fee of \$300 to \$375 for single-family homes, plus \$8 monthly from 2005 to 2008. The 6-1 ruling upholds a 2002 agreement between six utilities and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

## Water plan criticized

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Environmentalists are appealing the approval of a massive project to divert water from the Rio Grande for drinking water in Albuquerque. They contend state Engineer John D'Antonio didn't have jurisdiction to approve a permit for the \$275 million project. The conservationists also argue that water users downstream from Albuquerque would be harmed and that the project would damage efforts to preserve the Rio Grande ecosystem.

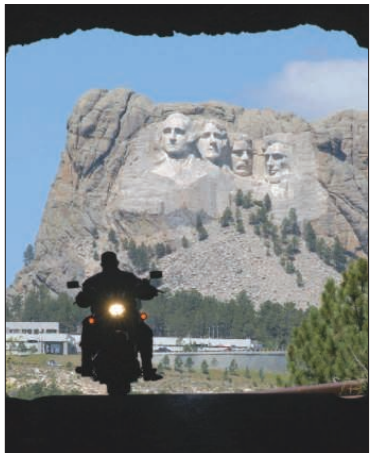
## Killed on work release

**NY** MIDDLETOWN — A prison inmate on work release was shot to death by intruders who broke into the apartment he was staying in, police said.

Authorities were searching for four suspects who fled on foot after shooting Roland Jackson Tuesday night.

Jackson, 24, who served time at the Fishkill Correctional Facility on a drug conviction, was staying with his girlfriend Ilesa Rivera and her 6-year-old son.

The intruders broke into the residence and separated Rivera and others from Jackson, and threatened him before shooting him, said police Chief Matthew Byrne.



## Road to Sturgis

A biker rolls through a tunnel on Iron Mountain Road as Mount Rushmore stands in the background near Keystone, S.D. Authorities said this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is drawing bigger crowds that have been more well-behaved than in previous years.



## Family royalty

Mackenzie Williams reaches up to touch the crown of her great-grandmother, 87-year-old Mattie Creel, Ms. Extensicare Health and Rehab Center, during the 2004 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant in Hoover, Ala.



## Fluttering for food

A hummingbird moves in for a quick feeding in Coryell City, Texas.





**Cowabunga!!** Efrain Chavez of Pasco, Wash., falls from a swinging rope into the Columbia River in Kennewick, Wash.



**Roaming tiger cubs** A trio of male Sumatran tiger cubs, recently born at the National Zoo, explore their habitat at the zoo in Washington, D.C. The three 14-week-old male cubs are, from top, Janan, Besar and Marah. The cubs are part of the Species Survival Plan, meaning they will be relocated to other zoos for breeding within the next three years. Sumatran tigers are an endangered species, with only 500 found in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and 200 in captivity.



**Magic is in the air** Children delight at a magic show on the first day of school at Maxey Elementary in Orlando, Fla. Front row from left, pre-K students Sheldon Arnold, Bethedra Rhodes and Steven Robledo; second row from left, first-graders Amanda Baker and Davonte Callahan, and kindergarten Taylor Houston stand "Unlock the Magic of Learning," the theme for a celebration to welcome back students and parents at Maxey.

## Stolen ride

**ME** WILTON — A Wilton man who wanted to go to a hospital to see a newborn baby broke into an unoccupied police station and helped himself to a cruiser, which he promptly wrecked, officials said.

Robert Bowden, 28, drove the cruiser into a field where the fenders were damaged, the radiator punctured and the fuel line ripped out early Tuesday. The vehicle was found in a ditch in front of a bowling alley.

Bowden, who gave police a full confession, was spotted about a mile away and was walking toward Farmington, said Kevin McCutcheon of the Wilton Police Department. He was covered with grass and scratches, McCutcheon said.

Bowden asked officers to take him to Franklin Memorial Hospital for a mental health evaluation, and police took him.

There, they learned that Bowden had called looking for a ride to visit a newborn baby, McCutcheon said. A court provision prevents Bowden from coming into contact with the baby, he said.

## Acts of kindness

**MS** OCEAN SPRINGS — A stranger from Richmond, Va., taught an Ocean Springs teacher and her students that kindness is often repaid with kindness.

Last year, Julie Walchak taught her English class at the Ocean Springs Alternative School about random acts of kindness. She shared a personal story to illustrate.

Fifteen years ago in Jackson, Walchak found herself struggling to support herself through college, eventually having to drop out and work full-time as a hotel desk clerk.

A guest at the hotel, Donald K. Spriggs of Richmond, Va., learned of her hardship and encouraged her to seek scholarships.

Spriggs paid the rest of her costs out of his own pocket.

Amazed by the story, 11 of Walchak's students found his address online and wrote letters "to thank him for changing my life and touching theirs," Walchak said.

"Their words and energy amazed me as much as his kindness had over a decade ago," she said.

A few weeks later, Spriggs sent a package to the school. He enclosed a letter to each of the students who had written him, plus a gift of \$1,000 for the school.

"Do something for the kids," was his lone request.

## Elderly woman dies in van

**TX** TEMPLE — An 87-year-old woman died after she was left in a nursing-home shuttle van for about four hours as temperatures neared 100 degrees, police said Wednesday.

Temple Police Sgt. Brad Hunt said a driver from Sunrise Oaks Health Care, where Hazel Forsythe was a resident, picked her up on Tuesday around 12:30 p.m. at Scott and White Hospital and drove her back to the nursing home. Hunt said the driver then left the woman in the van in an open parking lot, with all the windows up, and went inside.

The driver returned about four hours later and drove back to the hospital. When he opened the door

he found Forsythe's body, Hunt said.

The high temperature Tuesday in Temple was 97 degrees.

## RNC not wanted

**NY** Eighty-three percent of New Yorkers said they don't want the Republican convention in town, according to a survey taken by SW Public Relations. When a sample of 536 New Yorkers was asked whether they were happy that the Republicans are coming to town, even most self-identified Republicans said no.

The firm ranked the reasons for this lack of enthusiasm: Fifty-three percent were worried about traffic, closed streets and security hassles; 27 percent said "too many out-of-towners"; and 13 percent in this city with a Republican mayor but a traditionally Democratic electorate said it was because "I hate Republicans."

## Miss Daisy on duty

**WY** CHEYENNE — State officials say a \$150,000 robot named Miss Daisy is now ready to be sent anywhere in the state to handle bombs and hazardous waste from up to 1,500 feet away, out of harm's reach. It's one example of how the state has spent \$49 million from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security — per person, the most of any state.

## Tests destroyed

**WV** CHARLESTON — Nearly half of the standardized tests administered to students in one West Virginia county to comply with federal regulations were inadvertently destroyed by the scoring company before being graded, officials said Wednesday.

Of the 2,096 tests administered in Wyoming County in April, no results are available for 1,070 students, state Department of Education spokeswoman Liza Cordeiro said.

The missing tests had come from 12 of Wyoming County's 13 schools, Cordeiro said.

Kelley Carpenter, spokeswoman for CTB/McGraw-Hill in Monterey, Calif., said the test booklets were destroyed inadvertently when the company was disposing of material from a trial run of the test that was conducted last year.

## For the love of hot dogs

**IL** DETROIT — Charley Marcuse, the Detroit Tigers' operatic hot dog vendor, is taking a trip to the minors.

The Tigers' AAA-affiliate Toledo Mud Hens have invited Marcuse, 22, to sing his "Hoooot Dooongs" this weekend. Marcuse said he'll belt out his song three times an inning.

The Birmingham resident drew worldwide attention when Tigers officials told him in May to stifle his singing. He wound up singing on "Good Morning America" and was interviewed by the BBC.

Fans responded with petitions, a Web site and T-shirts proclaiming, "Let Charley Sing."

In June, the Tigers and the park's concessions service reversed a decision to silence Marcuse. But the team said Marcuse could sing his hot dog song only during the Hot Dog Row promotion in the middle of the second inning.

Stories and photos from wire services

## YOUR MONEY

# All good jobs come to those who wait

Susie Besaw, from the book *"The Savvy Sailor's Spouse,"* is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband, Jake's, new command. Last week Susie and Jake talked about the economics of her working.

The next week felt like the longest one of my life. At my last job, I asked my uncle for a reference and I was given the job the next day. None of this "hurry up and send your résumé and wait" stuff. Here I was dealing with strangers whom I may never meet for a job I hoped would be challenging. It all seemed uncertain and unfair.

On Wednesday, I called Carol and asked her if it was OK to call the NEX now. She said to give it a couple more days. She might as well have told me to wait another year. I wanted a job. I remained as calm as I could and thanked her.

I decided to go for a walk to burn off some nervous energy. I thought about the rest of that pint of rum raisin in the freezer, but remembered it didn't help last time. Besides, I was sure Jake would want some for dessert.

When Jake came home Wednesday night, I told him how frustrated I was waiting for a call for a job that I may or may not get. He just gave me a big hug and told me all good things were worth waiting for, and I thanked him for his support. We agreed I didn't hear something by Friday, I'd start calling different companies — even if the job's locations weren't convenient.

Finally, on Friday when I was about to call Carol to set up another appointment, the phone rang.

"Ms. Besaw, Mrs. Thompson at NEX," she replied. "I have your résumé here for the inventory computer support job. The head of that department, Mickey, wants you to come down for an interview next week. Are you still available?"

"Yes, ma'am," I replied. "When were you thinking?"

"How about Monday at 9 a.m.?" she replied.

"Monday at 9 a.m. sounds fine," I replied, trying to be as

calm as I could be.

Just come into the exchange and ask them to page me," she said. "I'll take you back to Mr. Mickey. Please be prompt — Mr. Mickey has three other interviews that morning."

Three other interviews, I thought, feeling less excited the thought of having that much competition.

"Yes, ma'am," I replied. "I'll be there."

Friday night Jake and I went out to celebrate. My first interview as a married woman! Jake tried to be supportive but also wanted me to keep my expectations realistic. I was competing with three other applicants, possibly more. I was confident I could win the job — but would Mr. Mickey agree?

The whole weekend I read and reread my database books trying to think of all the tough relational database questions he could ask. I went on the Web and downloaded the latest manuals and scanned them for any big updates.

On Sunday night, Jake came over to me when I was reading in my comfy chair, papers stacked all around me and said, "Enough, lady. It's time to go eat some dinner, relax and go to bed early. You need to be rested if you want to make a good impression tomorrow."

And relax we did — after I picked out my best suit and the perfect accessories to complement it. Jake took me out to dinner, put on my favorite movie and snuggled with me until I fell asleep. Then, after I went to sleep, I am sure he pushed me back on my side of the bed and read one of his thick, boring technical manuals for another hour.

Next week Susie has her interview.

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — *"The Savvy Sailor"* and *"The Savvy Naval Officer"* — can be purchased by writing to: Master Plan Inc., 500 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849. This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author's writing does not disclaim any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this purchase, or the book. E-mail for feedback is: [finance@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:finance@stripes.osd.mil)

## Money U.



Ralph Nelson



A Delta 757 takes to the skies from Memphis International Airport in Tennessee. Frequent flier programs with Delta and other airlines have received criticism. Said one customer: "Unless you're flying to Des Moines, Iowa, in the winter, on a Tuesday night, it's almost impossible to get a free ticket."

## Airlines try to take frustration out of frequent-flier programs

Airways industry aims to make rewards easier to use

BY SUZANNE MARTA

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — After collecting tens of thousands of miles in airline loyalty programs and setting aside time to go away, many frequent fliers complain it's nearly impossible to get on flights to the popular vacation spots they want to visit.

"Unless you're flying to Des Moines, Iowa, in the winter, on a Tuesday night, it's almost impossible to get a free ticket," grumbled Scott Cumming, a San Antonio physician waiting for his luggage recently at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

"I'm shocked when I can use my AAdvantage miles," he said. Responding to such concerns, some carriers are trotting out new tools and offers to make their programs more flier-friendly.

Fort Worth, Texas-based American Airlines Inc. has launched a special online calendar that allows customers to check for dates when seats are available for certain awards in its AAdvantage program.

Low-cost carrier AirTran Airways Inc. recently announced it would buy its best customers a free ticket to anywhere — on any airline.

Even as the airline industry struggles financially, loyalty programs remain critical marketing tools to maintain dialogues with customers so they keep coming back.

Consumers hold more than 8.5 trillion unused miles and more than half reflect activity on the ground, not in the air.

Michie Miller, a nurse from Hickory Creek, Texas, collects miles on all of Dallas' biggest carriers — American, Delta Air Lines Inc. and Southwest Airlines Co.

But Miller and her husband are careful to use their AAdvantage-branded Citibank card for almost everything they purchase.

"We even use it to pay utility bills," she said. For members of loyalty programs, it's never been easier to accumulate huge balances through credit-card purchases, trips to grocery stores and dinners in restaurants.

Now, it may be getting easier to redeem miles, too.

American quietly introduced its new AAdvantage tool in July.

The AAdvantage Hotspots calendar, which extends five months and is updated weekly, is limited to a few destinations while a more complete version is developed.

"We're trying to make it easier for our customers to redeem awards," said Kurt Stache, who recently took over as president of AAdvantage, the world's largest frequent-flier program with nearly 50 million members.

Previously, a traveler's best hope to get a broad view on seat availability was to check day-by-day online or reach a patient reservations agent on the phone willing to do the same thing.

American has made other efforts in recent months to improve its customers' experience with the AAdvantage program.

The carrier eliminated a \$100 ticket change fee on certain award tickets that had irritated customers when it was imposed in September 2002.

American is also offering mileage bonuses for redeeming award flights online, as it has for ticket purchases.

Southwest's Rapid Rewards program is intended to reinforce the Dallas-based carrier's easy-to-understand style of doing business.

Free tickets are earned based on the number of flights flown, rather than distance. Southwest awards can be used to go anywhere in its flight network.

Restrictions are minimal, and tickets can be used as long as there's space on the aircraft. Traditional carriers allow only a limited number of "award" seats per flight.

Southwest even sends \$12 worth of drink coupons to use during the flight.

For those reasons, the Dallas-based carrier has been hailed for the last seven years as having the "Best Award Redemption" among frequent-flier programs.

SEE PROGRAMS ON PAGE 27

*"We're trying to make it easier for our customers to redeem awards."*

Kurt Stache

President of AAdvantage, the world's largest frequent-flier program

# YOUR MONEY

## Programs: Airlines try to ease pain for frequent fliers

### PROGRAMS: FROM PAGE 36

"We want to focus our message on using tickets, rather than earning them," said Karen Wright, Southwest's manager of loyalty programs.

As discount carriers have expanded their reach, wreaking havoc on the business models of traditional airlines, the rules of the game for frequent fliers have also changed.

For example, the old rule of thumb of using a free ticket for domestic trips priced higher than \$500 is tougher to apply when tickets from Dallas-Fort Worth Airport to Los Angeles can be found for less than \$200.

Traditional carriers say they're using their loyalty programs as tools to fight smaller discount airlines.

American, for example, has emphasized its program's global reach over competitors. AirTran followed with its special anywhere-in-the-world program.

For all their commitment to frequent-flier programs, some air-

line executives, including American chairman Gerard Arpey, have hinted that they have become too generous.

So program changes focus on tools that allow members to get the most from their miles. American isn't adding more free seats, though officials point out that contrary to some reports, it's not reducing them either.

Southwest has tightened its Rapid Rewards program, reducing bonuses for booking online and increasing the threshold for earning flight credits on its credit card by 20 percent.

Travelers have long had the burden of keeping up with changes in the program, but now, some say they need to watch industry trends as well.

Miller has been following news reports about Delta's precarious financial position and has been slow to spend down her balance in the carrier's loyalty program.

"We've been trying to use them, but it's been so hard to find any seats," she said.

## Images, copies of checks soon will be the standard

Q. You often promote electronic bill paying, and once chastised a reader for being "in a snit" because a merchant converted his check into an electronic payment.

As a customer who has always been careful to have cash checks returned so that there could be no question as to who paid what when, I would like to know how the electronic approach could possibly be more sure than a hard copy.

A. Well, to the answers, but first: You're in for a bit of a shock.

Last year President Bush signed bank-industry modernization legislation that essentially ends your right to receive your canceled checks. Starting in late October, the so-called Check 21 law will allow any bank in the check-processing chain to make an electronic image of your check and discard the original. If you're still receiving paper checks with your state-

ments, you'll begin to see substitute checks — paper copies of these electronic images. Your original will be shredded.

Lawnmowers and bankers decided this was essential after the Sept. 11 attacks grounded air traffic for several days. Until Check 21, a financial institution typically had to return a paper check to the bank on which it was written in order to get paid. With flights grounded, check processing came to a virtual halt, suspending hundreds of billions of dollars of transactions.

The substitute checks created in the electronic imaging process will have the legal standing of the originals, so you can present them in, say, an audit by the Internal Revenue Service. But you also can present evidence of a completely electronic transaction, such as an automatic debit or a bill paid online. These transactions also note who got paid what and when, and come with protections not offered on check transactions.

The convenience and protections offered by electronic transactions have persuaded many to all but abandon their checkbooks. The Check 21 law might convince legions more.

But note: Check 21 also drastically will reduce "float" times, so most of your checks will be processed within a day, rather than the two- to four-day wait that's

more typical today.

Q. I know that one should contribute annually to an IRA and, if available, to a 401(k). But can people who receive Social Security disability or long-term disability payments contribute as well? I'm a single, relatively young person currently living on disability, although I anticipate being back in the working world within three years. In the meantime, I've been trying to put aside whatever I can into a mutual fund, but it offers no tax deferral.

A. Because you're not working, you can't contribute to a 401(k) or other workplace retirement plan. You're also not allowed to contribute to an IRA or a Roth IRA if you haven't earned income — and unfortunately, disability payments don't qualify, said Glenn Sulzer, a pension law analyst for tax research company CCH Inc.

If you were married and your spouse had earned income, or he or she could contribute to an IRA or Roth on your behalf.

But you can invest in a stock market index fund, a mutual fund that mimics a benchmark such as the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Because these funds don't do a lot of buying and selling, they don't generate much in the way of taxable capital gains distributions.

You're smart to want to continue saving.

Liz Pulliam Weston is a contributor to the Los Angeles Times. Questions can be sent to her at askweston@latimes.com or mailed to her in care of Money Talk, c/o First Command Financial Services, 202 W. 1st St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

### Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston

## THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES					
52-week	High	Low	Close	Net Chg	% Chg
10,553.81	11,446.52	Dow Jones Industrials	10,553.81	-117.75	-1.1%
3,212.45	2,576.74	Dow Jones Transportation	3,212.45	-54.45	-1.7%
1,785.81	2,446.59	Dow Jones Utilities	1,785.81	-28.51	-1.6%
6,753.62	6,520.43	NYSE Composite	6,753.62	-61.34	-0.9%
1,778.81	956.85	Amerex Index	1,778.81	-73.23	-4.1%
2,145.00	1,464.59	Nasdaq Composite	2,145.00	-105.71	-4.9%
1,163.23	974.21	S&P 500	1,163.23	-12.56	-1.1%
618.42	483.85	S&P MidCap	618.42	-54.03	-8.7%
686.42	453.94	Russell 2000	686.42	-51.10	-7.5%
11,371.14	8,372.84	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,371.14	-123.56	-1.1%

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	00's	Last	Name	Vol	00's	Last	Name	Vol	00's	Last
HealthNet	80,058.4	16.95	-2.57	Nasdaqtrac	20,929.99	32.47	-45	Oracle	94,859.0	17.79	-5.00
IBM	10,553.81	14.96	-13.47	Verizon	47,771.06	10.06	-28	Google	10,553.81	14.96	-13.47
Microsoft	4,238.98	9.77	-0.89	Sun Microsystems	28,763.00	1.13	-0.1	Cisco	61,946.90	9.90	-0.25
IBM	2,789.99	9.48	-0.49	Qualcomm	47,709.00	1.13	-0.1	Microsoft	49,878.26	6.26	-5.53
Microsoft	2,161.01	11.31	-1.11	Verizon	47,709.00	1.13	-0.1	Verizon	47,709.00	1.13	-0.1
IBM	1,492.00	11.06	-1.11	Verizon	47,709.00	1.13	-0.1	Verizon	47,709.00	1.13	-0.1
Microsoft	1,492.00	11.06	-1.11	Verizon	47,709.00	1.13	-0.1	Verizon	47,709.00	1.13	-0.1
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IBM	1,492.00	11.06	-1.11	Verizon	47,709.00	1.13					

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					
Name	Div	FE	LAST	YTD	% CHG
Boeing	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4
Lockheed Martin	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4
Northrop Grumman	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4
Raytheon	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4
General Dynamics	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4
Boeing	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4
Lockheed Martin	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4
Northrop Grumman	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4
Raytheon	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4
General Dynamics	-	15	58.22	-0.8	-1.4

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS					
Name	Div	FE	LAST	YTD	% CHG
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Fidelity Invest. Growth	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Japanese yen (Aug. 14)	106.90	
S. Korean won (Aug. 13)	1,138.00	
Euro	\$ 1.259	
British pound	\$ 1.588	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$ 1.312	
British pound	\$ 1.522	
Canada (dollar)	\$ 1.318	
Denmark (krone)	\$ 0.609	
Egypt (pound)	\$ 1.783	
Euro	\$ 1.241	
Hong Kong (dollar)	\$ 0.783	
Hungary (forint)	\$ 20.25	
Indonesia (rupiah)	\$ 1,558	
Israel (shekel)	\$ 4.537	
Japan (yen)	\$ 110.89	
Kuwait (dinar)	\$ 2.942	
Norway (krone)	\$ 0.776	
Philippines (peso)	\$ 0.552	
Saudi Arabia (riyal)	\$ 0.375	
Singapore (dollar)	\$ 1.746	
S. Korea (won)	\$ 1,157.50	
Switzerland (franc)	\$ 1.269	
Thailand (baht)	\$ 1.530	
Turkey (lira)	\$ 1,470.58	

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), see your local military exchange facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currency to one dollar; except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is in euros-to-dollar.)

PRECIOUS METALS					
Name	Div	FE	LAST	YTD	% CHG
Gold	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Silver	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Palladium	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Platinum	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Gold	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Silver	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Palladium	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Platinum	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Gold	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9
Silver	-	15	34.84	-31	-0.9

INTEREST RATES					
Name	Div	FE	LAST	YTD	% CHG
Prime rate	-	15	4.50	-	-
Discount rate	-	15	2.50	-	-
Federal funds market rate	-	15	1.25	-	-
3-month bill	-	15	1.44	-	-
6-month bill	-	15	1.44	-	-
1-year bill	-	15	1.44	-	-
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	-	15	1.44	-	-

## Cents and Sensibility

### Money tip of the day

## Save energy, cut power bill

- CBS MarketWatch**

**NEW YORK** — Summer temperatures are high, and for many consumers, high energy bills follow.

The American Red Cross recommends some simple things you can do to cut your power use — and cut your power bill:

  - Set your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher. You might install a programmable thermostat so that you can more easily control when the air conditioning is on.
  - Turn off lights and computers when not in use. This saves power and generates less heat.
  - Close windows and doors when air conditioning is on.
  - Clean your air conditioner's filter. Dust and other particles build up, diminishing the machine's effectiveness.
  - If possible, use the washing machine and dishwasher in the evening, when energy demand and temperatures are lower. Wash full loads.
  - Hang clothes on a line to dry. This on the dryer, use energy and generate more heat.
  - Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights. The energy-efficient bulbs last longer than regular bulbs.

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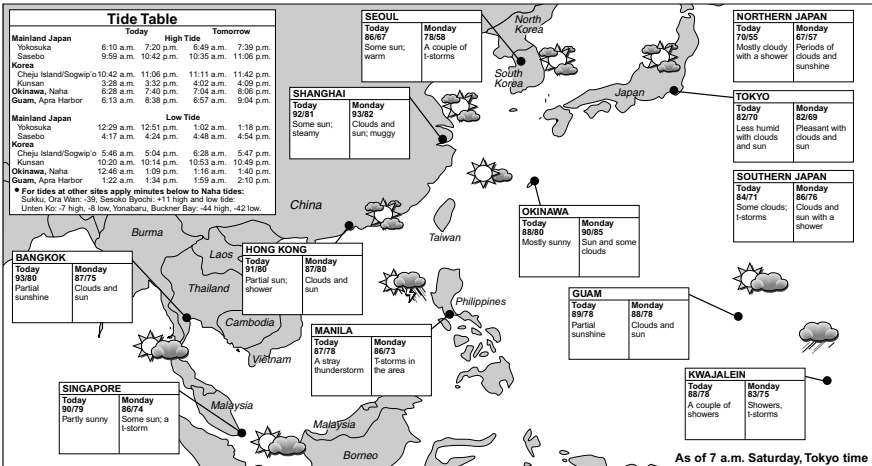






# The Pacific Forecast

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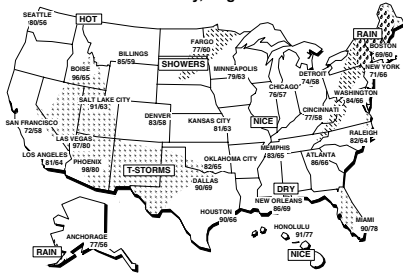
## Extended Forecasts

<b>TOKYO</b> Tuesday: Rain, high 79, low 71. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 90, low 77.	<b>KADENA</b> Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 94, low 85. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, high 93, low 83.	<b>SEoul</b> Tuesday: Rain, high 81, low 67. Wednesday: Rain, high 83, low 69.	<b>Manila</b> Tuesday: Thunderstorms, high 86, low 75. Wednesday: Thunderstorms, high 86, low 75.	<b>HAGATNA</b> Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 90, low 80. Wednesday: Thunderstorms, high 90, low 77.
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## Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	86/64	Los Angeles	83/65
Amarillo	74/57	Little Rock	79/58
Anchorage	73/55	Louisville	74/56
Asheville	74/58	Miami	90/79
Baltimore	80/63	Milwaukee	68/52
Birmingham	79/57	Nashville	74/55
Bismark	75/44	New York	83/68
Boise	99/68	Omaha	71/51
Boston	78/66	Orlando	88/73
Brownsville	94/70	Philadelphia	82/67
Buffalo	68/55	Phoenix	103/85
Burlington	72/59	Pittsburgh	68/53
Charleston, SC	82/72	Portland, OR	92/63
Charlotte	80/64	Portland, ME	71/64
Cleveland	68/52	Salt Lake City	95/67
Columbus, OH	70/54	St. Louis	75/56
Duluth	68/50	San Antonio	87/66
El Paso	94/68	San Diego	79/68
Hartford	82/64	San Juan	88/77
Helena	90/55	Tampa	86/75
Indianapolis	71/52	Tulsa	81/61
Jacksonville	82/73	Washington	81/66
Kansas City	76/54	Wichita	80/59

## Sunday, August 15



## U.S. Extended Forecast

The remnants of what was once Hurricane Charley will continue causing problems Sunday with heavy rainfall in the Northeast, possibly leading to additional flooding in some areas. Farther south, many areas will begin to dry out in the wake of the tropical deluge, although a shower or thunderstorm will develop in spots during the afternoon. A cold front will spark a few storms in the northern Plains, while the Southwest will continue to be unsettled. Most of the East will have dry weather Monday as the focal point of showers and thunderstorms shifts into the nation's midsection.

## Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	93/80	Iwakuni	83/70	Sasebo NB	83/73	Acapulco	92/77
Beijing	78/61	Kadena AB	88/80	Sapporo	70/55	Athens	86/63
Camp Casey	85/68	Kusan AB	81/67	Seoul	86/67	Auckland	60/44
Christchurch	40/22	Kwajalein	88/78	Shanghai	92/81	Baghdad	112/75
Diego Garcia	84/75	Manila	87/78	Singapore	90/79	Barbados	85/69
Hagatna	89/78	Misawa AB	74/58	Sydney	59/39	Barcelona	81/68
Hanoi	89/76	Osan	85/68	Taegu	81/63	Berlin	76/59
Hong Kong	91/80	Puerto	56/42	Taipei	93/76	Bermuda	84/70
Honolulu	91/77	Pusan	79/66	Tokyo	82/70	Brussels	72/52
						Budapest	77/54
						Buenos Aires	64/48
						Cairo	101/69
						Cancun	87/73
						Cape Town	52/35
						Geneva	77/65
						Mexico City	77/66
						Montreal	75/61
						Mogadishu	83/71
						Moscow	59/48
						Nairobi	76/51
						New Delhi	93/77
						Oslo	75/55
						Paris	75/57
						Rio de Janeiro	70/59
						Stockholm	84/63
						St. Petersburg	59/46
						Taipei	73/56
						Warsaw	68/54



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L.A. TIMES/LATPH

A bath enjoys the spring water at a Shirahone onsen. Owners say the water hasn't been as white as it was 10 years ago. To compensate, some onsen owners took to artificially coloring the water in their spas.

# Dye job puts Japanese spa owners in hot water

By BRUCE WALLACE  
Los Angeles Times

**SHIRAHONE ONSEN, JAPAN** — The thermal waters that in this hot spring village still gush from the volcanic rock in the folds of Japan's Northern Alps, a stinking soup of sulfur and minerals that turns milk white as it hits the outside air.

The faded waters of Shirahone. Bone white. Just as advertised.

But there is something else in the water this summer. In July, a former employee of the village's largest public hot spring bath, or onsen to the Japanese, told a national magazine that his bosses were secretly adding industrial liquid to the baths to keep Shirahone's water white.

The offending onsen closed immediately, drained its baths and hung a sign on the locked front gate saying, "We Are Sorry."

Over the following days, three other onsens in Shirahone — including one owned by the mayor — as either were caught or confessed to juicing their water to make it look whiter.

"It is this collusion of expectations and reality that led to the trouble, the onsen owners say. The water was still coming out of the ground clean and loaded with minerals, they say. It just wasn't as white as it was 10 years ago — nor as white as it looks in the town's brochures.

Customers began demanding to know where the white water had gone.

"People are used to the convenience of modern life where you throw a switch to get what you want, and they don't understand what real nature is," said a somer Motoki Saito, the fourth-generation owner of the family-run Yukawa So inn. Saito describes himself as a purist who would never tamper with the water coming out of the ground, and he is not among the onsen owners accused of altering their baths.

"Nature is always changing, but Japanese people complain whenever a facility doesn't match their ideal image of an onsen," he said.

certainly that no one knows the business of bathing better than it does.

Japan is bath-crazy. Archeological ruins point to the existence of a spa culture as far back as 6,000 years. And the most recent statistics show Japan's more than 27,000 onsens recorded 138 million overnight stays in 2002 — in a country of 127 million people.

The demand has created a decade-long drilling frenzy. Pipes are being sunk to greater depths, in many cases 1,000 to 1,500 yards into mostly volcanic rock.

Critics call the drilling overdevelopment and say it is causing some sources of water to run dry and pressure and temperatures to fall in others. In the case of Shirahone, operators say the lower water supply may be the reason the whiteness has begun to fade.

Tadamori Matsuda, a professor at Sapporo International University, noted that onsen regulations, written in 1948, did not require that the water have a measurable mineral content as long as it was kept hotter than 77 degrees.

The result, he warned, is that some onsens heat up tap water and call it a special bath. Others have taken to recycling water, or allow the same water to sit and be used for a week or longer — a shocking disclosure in a culture raised on the ritual of scrubbing thoroughly before entering what is supposed to be a clean communal tub.

Matsuda says as many as 70 percent of onsens recycle, but disclosure remains voluntary.

"This onsen issue represents modern Japan," Matsuda said. "The victim is always the consumer. They are cheated and they die." At least no one died in Shirahone. The village's onsen owners say they acted out of desperation, worried by the explosion in new spas and spooked by changes to the very thing that gave them an edge: the whiteness of the water.

Clear water threatened that prosperity.

"The water here always changes color in the spring anyway — it is more elemental in color from the snow runoff," Yoshio Koinata, head of the town's onsen owners union, said as he sat in the lounge of one of the biggest onsens in Shirahone.

Kohinata returned to the theme that the Japanese have an idealized view of nature and will settle for nothing less. The customers were complaining that the water wasn't what they expected, he explained.

"Obviously, it was a mistake and a bad thing to do," he said of the dye job, his tone turning mournful as the onsen owners were lamented. The just wanted to give the customers what they wanted."

Hsiao Uno of the Times' Tokyo bureau contributed to this report

## What's your scene?

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## "We knew it was wrong. But the customers expect the water to be white."

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# Vasser on verge of another accolade

Veteran ready  
to eclipse mark  
for consecutive  
Champ Car starts

BY ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

ELKHART LAKE, Wis. — Twice in the last couple years, Jimmy Vasser was sitting in his race car when he suddenly felt his lungs, heart and mind start racing.

Now he knows what claustrophobia feels like.

"One time it kind of lasted about 10 seconds and as soon as I undid my belt and loosened up my shoulders I was OK. It was weird being pinned down and not being able to move," Vasser said. "I thought maybe this is another sign that the days are coming where I don't care to be sitting in here anymore."

Vasser doesn't plan that on happening for at least another 18 months. Until then, he'll keep driving — right into history.

Vasser is set to tie Al Unser Jr.'s streak of 192 consecutive starts in Champ Car open-wheel racing Sunday in the Grand Prix of Denver. He could then break the mark Aug. 29 in Montreal.

"It's not an accomplishment of tremendous skill; it's just longevity," Vasser said. "It's an awful lot of races consecutively, but it doesn't feel like that. I still get antsy with anticipation the same way I always did."

Vasser began his streak at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in 1993.

Along the way, he won a series championship in 1996, finished runner-up in 1998, won the fastest race in Champ Car history in 2002 at the California Speedway (179.995 mph) and captured 10 checkered flags, eight poles and 31 podium finishes.



Jimmy Vasser, above, is set to tie Al Unser Jr.'s streak of 192 consecutive starts in Champ Car racing on Sunday in the Grand Prix of Denver. Vasser could break the mark on Aug. 29 event at Montreal.



Jimmy Vasser

He's one of seven drivers to earn more than \$11 million in his Champ Car career. Now in his 13th year, Vasser ranks in the top 20 in almost every statistical category and also helped mold the careers of former teammates Alex Zanardi and Juan Pablo Montoya.

If he can start two more races, he'll cherish that mark the most because it represents consistency and durability, Vasser said.

"It's a great milestone and I'm very proud of it," Vasser said during last week's Grand Prix of Road America.

It means he hasn't been injured in crashes or seen his skills slip enough to lose a ride.

"I guess it also means I've been around a long time," Vasser said.

At 38, Vasser is the elder statesman on the Champ Car circuit, something he still finds hard to fathom.

"Well, it just happens," he said. "I still feel like I'm the young punk in the field and it just seems like it kind of happens overnight where you go from being one of the younger guys to being one of the older, now the oldest."

He can feel the tug of retirement when he sees the rest of the field getting younger and younger, too.

"I'm certainly not washed up or anything like that, but I'm in the fourth quarter of the game," he said.

When the clock runs out, he won't get out of the game altogether. He'll just slide over into the business side as a full-time owner. He co-owns Indianapolis-based PKV Racing along with Kevin Kalkhoven and Dan Pettit, founded 19 months ago.

For now, though, Vasser is focused on one thing, "The driver," he said.

And he plans to keep it that way through 2005, after which he'll decide whether to quit racing and turn the driving over to an up-and-comer.

He wants to quit while he's still competitive. He doesn't want to be perceived as "a guy that's just out there driving around, especially as an owner. Then people will think I'm immune from being fired because I'm part of the ownership of the team, and that's not the perception I want to have."

What has kept him in contention year after year, he said, is balance. He isn't a madman on the bike like some drivers who cycle for two-plus hours at a time to stay in race shape. The closest Vasser gets to a bicycle is the stationary kind at the gym, where he also does a little running, a little swimming, a little weightlifting.

And he doesn't spend his free time fretting, either.

"When I'm away from the track, I'm not very busy," he said.

"We travel a lot and this is a fast-paced life, so when I'm away from the track, I have a very slow, simple life. That way my tank is full for racing."

# Burton expects to give new car owner top effort

BY DICK BRINSTER  
The Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — When Jeff Burton gets into a Chevrolet for the first time next week, he expects to give Richard Childress Racing a solid effort at Michigan International Speedway.

Burton, a 17-time race winner in NASCAR's top series, will move from Roush Racing to the Childress team, where he will replace Dave Blaney. Burton has competed exclusively in Ford since 1993, and realizes it might take some time to feel comfortable in a Chevy.

"It better not take long. They're not going to wait for us," Burton said Friday at Watkins Glen International, where he'll take his last ride Sunday for Roush. "No matter what happens, they don't want to hold these races for you."

Childress said no time will be wasted in an attempt to reduce the severity of Burton's learning curve.

"We're going to start bright and early Monday morning," the car owner said.

That could be delayed if Sunday's Sirius at The Glen is postponed. The forecast is for rain from approaching Hurricane Charley, which would upset the Chevy indoctrination plan.

Weather took its toll Friday, when qualifying was rained out, putting Nextel Cup points leader Jimmie Johnson on the pole.

Team owner Jeff Burton, a four-time winner on the road course coming off a victory Sunday at Indianapolis, said start second as he tries for his fourth victory in seven races and series-leading sixth overall.

Rain is expected Saturday, meaning the cars could be denied practice time. Johnson would like the seat time, but cherishes the gold pole.

"It's important to have track position here and you can't ask for anything better than the position we're in," Johnson said.

"We're in good shape," Burton, who will start 24th Sunday, says he is approaching the CSP Marketplace 400 at Michigan as he would any other race.

"We don't have time to be goofing off," said Burton, the 1994 rookie of the year. "It's our responsibility to go in there and get going and figure out what we can do to be the best team at Michigan."

## Sirius at the Glen lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup  
Raided by rain, the opening  
field set by car-owner points  
last Sunday

At Watkins Glen International

Watkins Glen, N.Y.

1. (40) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet.

2. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet.

3. (18) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet.

4. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet.

5. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford.

6. (18) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet.

7. (97) Kurt Busch, Ford.

8. (18) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet.

9. (25) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet.

10. (5) Casey Mears, Dodge.

11. (59) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge.

12. (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge.

13. (6) Mark Martin, Ford.

14. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge.

15. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet.

16. (40) Sterling Marlin, Dodge.

17. (50) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet.

18. (47) Greg Biffle, Ford.

19. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet.

20. (31) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet.

21. (48) Jeff Burton, Ford.

22. (51) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet.

23. (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge.

24. (50) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet.

25. (40) Ward Burton, Chevrolet.

26. (47) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet.

27. (7) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge.

28. (11) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet.

29. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge.

30. (43) Jeff Green, Dodge.

31. (32) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet.

32. (43) Jeff Green, Dodge.

33. (20) Todd Bodine, Dodge.

34. (72) Tom Hubert, Ford.

35. (4) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet.

36. (88) Larry Gosselman, Ford.

37. (69) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge.

38. (19) Jimmie Sadler, Dodge.

39. (60) Tony Ave, Chevrolet.

40. (42) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet.

41. (29) Todd Bodine, Dodge.

42. (59) Klaus Graf, Dodge.

43. (25) Stanton Barrett, Dodge.

"If we got to Michigan and run poorly, we are not going to use the excuse that we haven't had time to build. This is a no-excuses deal."

Childress said he always wanted Burton as a driver, worked on a deal for some time and took advantage of the opportunity to hire him.

For Roush, the release of Burton was difficult from an emotional aspect, but left him feeling good about what he did. The car owner carried the 37-year-old Virginian despite a lack of sponsorship after Citgo departed last November.

"He has been such a friend, we've been involved with him for so long and he's been such a great ambassador for NASCAR. I wasn't going to be the guy who put Jeff Burton on the street," Roush said.

Burton was grateful. "The story deserves to be told that they spent money as if they had a sponsor," Burton said.

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# Woods in danger of missing cut in PGA

Els, Clarke move to top of field early in second round

BY PETE HERRERA  
The Associated Press

HAVEN, Wis. — Tiger Woods' tee shot faded into the rough on the ninth hole Friday in the PGA Championship, and he slammed his club into the tee box. The world's top-ranked player knew he was running out of chances to avoid missing the cut in a major for the first time in his pro career.

Woods had opened with a 75 on Thursday and made a brief early charge in the second round with birdies on his first two holes. But the rally stalled with bogeys at Nos. 5 and 6, dropping him 3 over par for the tournament.

The projected cut was at 1 over and Woods was spraying his drives all over the course. He kept saving pars with his short game, but was still 3 over through 11 holes.

Ernie Els and first-round leader Darren Clarke shared the lead midway through the second round at 9 under.

The second round was not complete at presstime.

Els, the runner-up in the Masters and second in the British Open after losing a playoff to American Todd Hamilton, made



Bryn Baird tees off on the first hole Friday at Whistling Straits in Haven, Wis. Baird was 8 under par after completing the second round.

three birdies but couldn't shake Clarke, who overcame an early double bogey. Bryn Baird and Vijay Singh were 8 under.

Woods opened his second round with back-to-back birdies but the momentum vanished

when he reached the par-5 fifth, nicknamed the "Snake."

Woods, who struggled with his putter in a round of 75 on Thursday, had plenty on the line. At stake was his streak of 331 straight weeks as the world's No.

1 player and his five-year run as the tour's player of the year.

After the two birdies, Woods hit his drive into a deep fairway bunker on the par-4 fourth hole, but blasted his second shot onto the green and made par. But he gave up a shot at No. 5, where he managed to get up and down from the fairway to save bogey.

Earlier, the "Snake" — featuring a pair of 90-degree doglegs on the narrow fairway that leads to the green — also took a bite out of Phil Mickelson.

Mickelson, looking to win his second major of the year, had things going his way until his second shot found the water on the par-5. He put his fourth shot 30 feet from the hole and three-putted from there for a double bogey 7.

Mickelson made bogeys at Nos. 7-8, then birdied No. 9 to finish at par 72. As much trouble as the fifth hole gave Mickelson, it was his putter that cost him birdies.

"For an eight-hole stretch my putter didn't seem to cooperate. I just gave away a lot of strokes there," Mickelson said.

Mickelson broke through for his first major title in the Masters. He finished second in the U.S. Open and third in the British Open, putting him in position to become the first player to finish in the top three in all four majors in one year. Mickelson, who opened the PGA with a 69, has shot nine rounds in the 60s in this year's majors.

But his back-nine troubles Friday may have hurt his chances. He pulled within two shots of Baird before his problems down the stretch Friday. Baird, who went off early Friday, shot a 69 and was at 8 under heading into the weekend.

Baird, yet to win on the PGA Tour, is the latest surprise in the PGA. On Thursday, he matched his best round in a PGA Championship with a 67.

Baird came in having missed the cut in four of his last six tournaments. But he has played consistently well in previous PGA Championships, making the cut each of the last three years. His 67 was his fifth round in the 60s in this tournament.

"I took advantage of the good breaks," Baird said.

"Tomorrow, I'm just going to try to keep doing what I've been doing the last couple of days. Keep it away from the bunkers and the tall grass."

Whistling Straits, which surrendered plenty of birdies Thursday, was playing longer Friday. The wind was up and tournament officials put back the tees that had been moved up Thursday in anticipation of bad weather that never materialized.

"The course is definitely playing a little bit tougher today," Chris Riley said after his second-round 70.

"What played really difficult was the length of the course," said Stephen Ames, who had a 71.

# Verplank hoping to boost his Ryder Cup position

BY ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

HAVEN, Wis. — Scott Verplank began the PGA Championship in 14th place in the Ryder Cup standings, but just 29 points shy of the eighth spot and a trip to Michigan to face the Europeans.

**Golf notes**

The top 10 plus two captain's picks will represent the United States at Oakland Hills.

"My goal is to make it on points and to play well here," Verplank said after firing an opening-round 67 Thursday. "My real goal is to give myself a chance to win this golf tournament, and the Ryder Cup will

take care of itself."

John Daly likely cost himself any chance of being a captain's pick when he had a quadruple-bogey 8 on the 18th hole to finish with an 81.

This is the last chance for the Americans to secure a spot on the team. Europeans have two more tournaments, the NEC Invitational at Firestone and the BMW International Open in Germany, to determine their dozen participants.

"It's in the back of my mind. It's been in the back of my mind for two years, since the last one was over with," Verplank said.

"So, I'm not really thinking about it a whole lot more this week."

Chris DiMarco is 15th, and he also had a

good start, shooting a 68.

"I would rather be in six right now and not have to worry about it," he said. "Last week, I got myself in a position that I can at least see the others. This week is worth double points."

Justin Leonard shot a 66, good for second place, but he's so far down in the points, he doesn't expect to catch captain Hal Sutton's attention.

"The only statement that I could make that would catch Hal's attention would be sitting in this chair Sunday afternoon" as the winner, Leonard said.

"Right now, I have plans on playing San Antonio and watching the Ryder Cup on television. Unless I do something wonder-

ful three next three days, that's exactly where I'll be."

Jerry Kelly, who entered the PGA one spot out of the top 10, shot a 76.

**Acc again**

Hale Irwin made the first hole-in-one in competition at Whistling Straits, sinking a 3-iron from 185 yards on the par-3 seventh hole.

It was Irwin's sixth career ace on tour and second at the PGA.

He had one at Firestone in 1975.

His hole-in-one Thursday was the first at a PGA championship since 2001, when Nick Faldo, David Tom and Scott Hoch all had it. It was the 32nd ace at the PGA championship since 1970.

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# Ravens rough up Vick, Falcons

BY DAVID GINSBURG  
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Judging by their first exhibition game, little has changed for the Baltimore Ravens and Atlanta Falcons.

The Ravens still have a suffocating defense and the Falcons can't score without Michael Vick at quarterback.

Fred Weary returned an interception 49 yards for a touchdown and Baltimore spoiled Jim Mora's head coaching debut by cruising to a 24-0 exhibition victory in the rain Thursday night.

"It's extremely tough to win games in this league when you win 11 penalties, you're minus-20 on the turnover ratio, you run the ball for 53 yards, give up 113 rushing, kill drives the way we did with penalties and keep drives

alive the way we did with penalties," Mora said.

Reserve tight end Daniel Wilcox caught two touchdowns passed for the Ravens, who built a 14-0 halftime lead and made it stand up by holding Atlanta without a first down in the final 30 minutes.

Just like last year, the Falcons couldn't generate much offense without Vick. The nimble-footed quarterback left after the first series and rookie Matt Schaub went 12-for-24 for 108 yards and two interceptions.

Vick did, however, avoid injury, which was this outing's a surprise compared to the last time he faced the Ravens.

In Atlanta's second exhibition game last year, Vick scrambled out of the pocket and broke his right leg when tackled by Baltimore linebacker Adalius Thomas.

The Falcons were 2-9 before Vick returned Nov. 30.

On this night, Vick didn't get a chance to display his arm or scrambling ability. After handing off twice to Warrick Dunn, Vick dropped back to throw on third down and was nabbed by safety Will Demps, who received virtually no resistance after blitzing up the middle.

"I was mad, I was upset," Vick said. "They blitzed me knowing I wasn't going to run. They can do what they want in preseason. I'll see them again one day."

Ravens quarterback Kyle Boller went 5-for-9 for 56 yards and a touchdown before giving way to backup Kordell Stewart in the second quarter. Boller did not throw an interception, and this quarter he had a rating of 111.3 more than doubled the 51.8 mark he compiled as a rookie last year.



Baltimore Ravens safety Will Demps, right, sacks Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick on Thursday night during the first quarter of the Ravens' 24-0 exhibition victory in Baltimore.

# Smith guides Bears over Rams in debut

BY R.B. FALLSTROM  
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Lovie Smith's head coaching debut was a bottom-line success, even though it isn't a job he desired from an artistic standpoint.

The Chicago Bears overcame 19 penalties for 160 yards, capitalizing on Ahmad Reed's 87-yard kickoff return at the start of overtime in a 13-10 exhibition victory over the St. Louis Rams on Thursday night.

The 46-year-old Smith was the Rams' defensive coordinator for three seasons before replacing Dick Jauron with the Bears after a 7-9 season. So this one meant more to Smith than the usual exhibition game.

"Any victory, of course, means quite a bit," Smith said. "But this is home to me. Mike Martz is a great friend and I'm here right now because of what Mike Martz was able to do and help me do."

The novelty of facing their old

coach has worn off just a bit for the Rams, after three days of joint practices with the Bears last week in Maccab, Ill. Martz, the Rams' head coach, didn't even mention Smith during his brief postgame remarks.

The Bears didn't waste any time after Merritt's kickoff return, sending out Paul Edinger on the winning 25-yard field goal on the next play.

Penalties were not a problem last year for the Bears, who averaged 50 yards in calls per game.

The Rams also stumbled with 12 penalties for 80 yards.

Backup Chris Chandler led the Rams to their only touchdown, a 13-yard pass to fullback Joey Goodspeed in the second quarter. The 38-year-old Chandler was 8-for-9 for 108 yards in the second quarter, showing nimble feet on a couple plays. Starter Marc Bulger played the first quarter and was 3-for-6 for 57 yards.

Bears starter Rex Grossman also played one quarter, going 4-for-5 for 39 yards.

# Tomlinson about to become league's highest-paid RB

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — LaDainian Tomlinson is about to become the highest-paid running back in the NFL.

Tomlinson said after Thursday's practice he has agreed in principle to a deal with the San Diego Chargers that will eclipse the eight-year, \$50.5 million contract signed by Washington's Clinton Portis in the offseason.

Asked if his deal will be worth more than that given Portis, Tomlinson replied, "Absolutely. I don't think it will even be close."

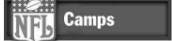
Few players have matched Tomlinson's three years in the NFL, a span during which he's rushed for 4,564 yards and 37 touchdowns.

Tomlinson, the fifth player in NFL history to rush for more than 200 yards in four games, last year became the first to rush for 1,000 yards and catch 100 passes.

"Good for him," quarterback Drew Brees said of Tomlinson's deal. "It's awesome and he deserves it."

Tomlinson's contract will be an extension to the two years he has remaining. He is scheduled to be paid \$5.5 million this year and \$6.5 million in 2006.

When Tomlinson signs, he'll be tied to the Chargers through the 2011 season, which he likes. "Because I want to be here to make the change," said Tomlinson, who's seen the Chargers go 17-31 since being the fifth overall pick in 2001. "I want to be here



when people say what the organization used to be when they were down, and now these guys are up and they are winning. And I want to be a part of that group."

Chargers General Manager A.J. Smith wouldn't confirm the Chargers agreed to terms with Tomlinson. Tim Condon, Tomlinson's agent, wasn't available for comment.

The contract is expected to be signed over the weekend.

**Widings:** For the first time in two seasons, Tomlinson won't be able to rely on Kenny McKim.

After a drunken driving conviction earlier this year, the NFL handed down a two-game suspension to the veteran who led Minnesota's defensive linemen in tackles last season. Even though he's preparing to start Saturday's exhibition game against Arizona, Mike — barring a successful appeal — won't play in the regular season until Sept. 26 against Chicago.

The appeal is still pending, Mike said Thursday. "I haven't heard anything yet, but that's something I've come to grips with, you know."

"It doesn't go in my favor, I intend to come out here and work hard every day as if I was playing the first game. If I have to sit out,



San Diego RB LaDainian Tomlinson said Thursday he has agreed in principle to a deal with the Chargers that will surpass the eight-year, \$50.5 million contract of Washington's Clinton Portis.

I'll have to go ahead and do that and come back and get ready to play that third game of the season."

The Vikings open at home Sept. 12 against Dallas.

If his appeal fails, it'll mark the first time in 33 games with the Vikings that Tomlinson, who signed with Minnesota as a free agent in 2002, won't start. In fact, it would be only the second season in his seven-year NFL career that he won't start all 16 games.

"When you make poor choices, there are going to be consequences, I realize that," Mike said. "I made a poor choice and now I have to deal with those consequences."

In November, police found Mike had a blood alcohol level of 0.19 percent, 69 higher than the state limit. It was his third arrest for drunken driving in 16 months.

**Titans:** Cornerback Samari Rolle sat out practice with a sore right ankle and could miss Tennessee's exhibition opener Saturday night against Cleveland.

Rolle was given a break from practice Wednesday to rest his legs, but he had swelling and discomfort in his ankle Thursday. The Titans X-rayed his ankle and coach Jeff Fisher said the tests were negative.

"We're going to rest him tomorrow and see how he is for the war-murks. If he's feeling good, comfortable, we'll let him play," Fisher said.

Fisher said Rolle would be able to play if it was a regular season game. Mike Echols will start at right cornerback if the Titans decide to protect Rolle's ankle.

**Broncos:** One day after making a cameo appearance, rookie running back Tatum Bell had a greater role in workouts.

Bell's second-round draft choice out of Oklahoma State, sidelined by a broken middle finger on his right hand, ran pass patterns and carried the ball in his left hand. A day before, he was running on the sidelines.

"I know I won't be full speed, 100 percent, but I have to go out and play," said Bell, who wears a small, soft cast to protect the finger.

# Ravens RB Lewis plans to play entire NFL season

Drug conspiracy trial set to begin on Nov. 1

BY DAVID GINSBURG  
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Jamal Lewis won't leave his bid to successfully defend his NFL rushing title and carry the Baltimore Ravens back to the playoffs.

Lewis ran for 2,066 yards last season, the second-highest total in league history. He set several records along the way, including a 25-yard rushing effort against the Cleveland Browns that shattered the NFL game mark.

He gained only 14 yards on six carries Thursday night in Baltimore's exhibition opener against the Atlanta Falcons, shortly after learning that his drug conspiracy trial is scheduled to begin Nov. 1. Lewis ran for 206 yards last season, the second-highest total in league history. He set several records along the way, including a 25-yard rushing effort against the Cleveland Browns that shattered the NFL game mark.

"I was a little rusty," he said. "The trial is set to start one day after the Ravens play in Philadelphia and six days before a meeting with the Browns, against whom Lewis ran for 500 yards in two games last year."

Lewis believes he won't miss any playing time because of the trial. He was relieved to know that his time in court will happen this year. Charged with conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and using a cell phone in violation of federal law, he has steadfastly maintained his innocence.

"I wanted it to happen sooner than later. For me, I just want to get it out of the way," Lewis said. "It's set for November, and that's when we have to handle it. I have a long season ahead of me and we will handle it as it comes along. That is the only thing we can really do."

Ravens coach Brian Billick isn't quite sure whether Lewis will be able to handle the logistics of traveling between Atlanta and Baltimore, but he knows the running back will be helped by the mental aspect of standing trial.

After all, Billick said, Lewis learned of the charges long before they were made public and still managed to exceed 2,000 yards rushing while lifting Baltimore to the AFC North title.

"He dealt with this mentally all last year. He knew this was pending, the court situation," Billick said. "So if anybody's prepared to deal with it, it's Jamal."

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# Saints' Smith building for future after NFL

## Linebacker developing backup plan with real estate business in Fla.

By MARY FOSTER  
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — There is more than a playbook in New Orleans Saints linebacker Darrin Smith's locker this summer.

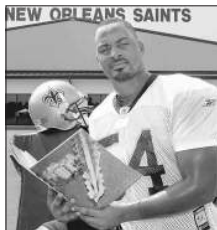
Smith has a couple of slick files in easy reach — one for the \$30 million condominiums his company just completed, one for the \$90 million Hilton Hotel he hopes to begin constructing in Miami Beach this fall.

"I always knew the NFL was an iffy proposition," Smith said. "I knew the odds were against me, so I wanted to have a backup plan."

Chalk it up to competitiveness, to being business wise as well as football smart, or to looking ahead. Whatever it was, back in the 1980s, when University of Miami players were known for big-time talent and renegade behavior, Smith was hitting the field and the books.

He left the Hurricanes after five years with All-American honors, an undergraduate degree in business management and organization and a master's degree in marketing, making him one of only five NFL players with a master's.

"I think it was being a competitive person," Smith said. "I wanted to beat everyone in the classroom and on the field. Plus, I knew that the odds of making it in the NFL were long and even if you made it, careers are usually short."



New Orleans Saints linebacker Darrin Smith poses with a file on one of his properties during training camp on Wednesday. Smith has built up a lucrative real estate business in south Florida.

A second-round pick by the Dallas Cowboys, he's entering his 12th season in the NFL. He has been with the Saints, his fourth NFL team, since 2000. He started 10 games last year, 15 in 2002 and all 16 the two previous years. Playing both inside and outside linebacker, Smith posted a career-high 123 tackles in 2002.

"What Darrin gives us is a lot of stability," defensive coordinator Rick Venturi said. "He's an experienced veteran. I think he's able to be a director out there. The guy's always a better player than people expect."

And while building his reputation on the field, he has built a lucrative real estate business in south Florida.

"It's what I try to tell the young players all the time," Smith said. "You'll probably have a short life in football, three or four years. And the reality is, it's going to be hard to make the same type of money after football no matter what you do, but you're probably going to have the same bills. So if you want to maintain the same lifestyle, you have to prepare yourself for afterward."

His senior year at Miami, Smith interned with a financial firm. "I wanted to understand how money works," Smith said. "I thought, 'If football doesn't work out, let me study this and see how it works.' And I had an opportunity to see real-life situations, including how wealthy people really live. The reality is, a lot of wealthy people, you wouldn't even know they were wealthy. They drive regular cars, they have regular clothes, they have nice homes but nothing really extravagant. So I patterned myself after that."

In his second year in the league, Smith started buying duplexes.

He went on to condos and houses, then started renovating warehouses and decided it was time to move to bigger things.

"I took the time to go to real estate school and get my license," Smith said. "I've just always believed that whatever you do you've got to throw yourself into it. So that's what I do in the offseason. When I'm not playing football, I'm learning about real estate and ways to make money, ways to invest."

Smith and Richmond Webb, who played 11 seasons with the Miami Dolphins, pooled their resources and formed SWH Holding Corp.

"I've always been a great believer in guys getting together and making their money work for them while we can," Smith said.

They are currently selling condominiums in the building they built in Fort Lauderdale, called Terraces of the Isle. The five-story building on the Intercoastal Waterway has 14 luxury condos, as well as dock space for residents' boats.

This fall they hope to begin construction on a Hilton condominium hotel on Miami Beach, "Fantasy of the Ocean," which will have 153 luxury units and 150 feet of beach front.

"Donald Trump has a place just down the street," Smith said. "That's our competition."

Smith has encouraged his teammates and other players to get involved in real estate.

"I had an organization in the past called Access to Capital Group," Smith said. "I started that in 1995 because I saw a lot of guys in the league playing a while and some of them leaving without much funds or much for the future. I started that group so guys could get together and make their money work where everybody could become successful."

The idea didn't get much response. It's hard to convince a player in his early 20s that the big money might not last, so now Smith tries to convince teammates on a one-to-one basis. Three Saints players are attending real estate school.

The business is growing, but Smith, 35, isn't ready to become a full-time business man.

"Right now," he said, "my mind's on the football and my motivation is winning."

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# Hawkins suspension stands after appeal

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago Cubs reliever LeTroy Hawkins began serving a three-game suspension Friday after his appeal was rejected. His fine was reduced from \$3,000 to \$2,000.

After giving up a tiebreaking homer in the ninth to the St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols on July 20 at Wrigley Field, Hawkins was ejected after yelling at plate umpire Tim Tschida as he walked to the dugout. The reliever had to be restrained by manager Dusty Baker and several Cubs coaches from going at Tschida.

## MLB briefs

"Do I regret it? No," Hawkins said at the time, adding that he and Tschida had a feud dating back two years.

In 2002 when Hawkins was with the Minnesota Twins, Tschida ejected him from a game in a disagreement over the positioning of the reliever's chair in the bullpen.

Hawkins wasn't immediately available for comment Friday. As the Cubs closer, he has 17 saves in 21 chances.

The Cubs said they expected to hear within the next couple days on the appeal of Kerry Wood's five-game suspension for an April 19 win over Eric Cooper.

Wood was listed as Saturday's starter against Los Angeles.

## Astros' Garner suspended

NEW YORK — Houston Astros manager Phil Garner was suspended for Friday night's game at Montreal because of a run-in last week with umpire Brian Knight. Garner was ejected from the Expos-Astros game in Houston last Saturday. Jose Vizcaino had jumped over Montreal pitcher

Jon Rauch to beat out an infield hit, and was walking back to first base when he was tagged by catcher Einar Diaz.

Knight called Vizcaino out for making a move toward second base, but the player said he never intended to advance.

Garner was suspended by Bob Watson, vice president of on-field operations for Major League Baseball.

## Second opinion sought

PHILADELPHIA — Pat Burrell will seek a second opinion on his strained left wrist, delaying surgery for at least a week in hopes of returning to Philadelphia's lineup this season.

"I'm going to try and do everything I can to get back," he said. Burrell was scheduled to have surgery Friday which would have ended his season, but instead was told to Baltimore on Monday for a second opinion. Burrell said his wrist was feeling better, although he still wears a splint.

Burrell, who injured himself in batting practice on July 27, was hitting .263 with 18 homers and 68 RBIs.

## Sturtz drops appeal

ARLINGTON, Texas — New York Yankees pitcher Tanyon Sturtz dropped his appeal of a three-game suspension and began serving the penalty Thursday night.

Sturtz was one of eight players disciplined — five were suspended — after a fight between the Yankees and Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park on July 24.

Sturtz (4-2) made a spot start Wednesday night and was the winning pitcher as New York beat Texas 4-2. He pitched five innings and gave up two runs and five hits.



Houston manager Phil Garner was suspended for one game for this run-in with umpire Brian Knight last weekend against Montreal.

## Cordero acquitted in DUI case

MEDINA, Ohio — Florida Marlins outfielder Wil Cordero was acquitted of drunken driving in a highway accident in December in which his sport utility vehicle rolled onto its side.

A jury acquitted the former Cleveland Indians player Thursday of driving under the influence of alcohol. Cordero testified that his poor sense of direction caused him to be confused, not wine he drank earlier that day.

## Salmon's shoulder can wait

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Tim Salmon wants to hold off having surgery on his ailing left shoulder until after the season and instead help the Anaheim Angels on their postseason push.

"The idea of sitting at home watching this team in the playoffs would be tough," Salmon said.

Salmon, who became a designated hitter this year after spending the previous 11 seasons in right field, will have arthroscopic surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff and biceps tendon. He has had discussions with team physician Dr. Lewis Yocum.

# Dodgers deny 301st victory to Maddux

BY RICK GANO

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Odlis Perez out-pitched Greg Maddux before Steve Finley helped the streaking Los Angeles Dodgers pull away at the end to beat the Chicago Cubs 8-1 Friday.

Leading 2-1, the Dodgers scored six times in the fifth inning, taking advantage of Chicago's wilting bullpen and the Cubs' wobbly defense. The NL West leaders won for the 28th time in 37 games.

Finley, 15-for-26 in 10 games since being traded from Arizona to the Dodgers, hit an RBI single to break a 1-1 tie in the sixth.

Finley added a two-run single in the ninth. Pinch-hitter Robin Ventura and Milton Bradley hit RBIs singles off Kyle Farnsworth. Shawn Green added another run-scoring single off Jon Lester.

Chicago's Moises Alou and Michael Barrett made errors.

Perez (6-4) gave up six hits and a run in 6 1/3 innings.

In his first start since winning his 300th game last Saturday in

San Francisco, Maddux (11-8) gave up eight hits and two runs in 6 1/3 innings. He was greeted with a standing ovation in his first at-bat and stepped back to wave to the crowd.

After Cesar Izturis doubled with one out in the sixth, Finley hit a hard grounder up the middle that went off diving second baseman Mark Grudzielanek's glove for an RBI single to give the Dodgers a 2-1 lead.

Maddux had retired 14 of 15 to that point after giving up a first-inning run.

In the first, Izturis led off with a single, stole second and moved to third on a sacrifice by Finley. Izturis scored on Bradley's bounce to first that became an infield single when Derek Lee looked home and was left with no play.

Singles in the bottom half by Ramon Martinez, Sammy Sosa and Alou evened the score.

The Cubs put two on with one out in the fifth, but Sosa's bid for a homer came up short when his drive to left-center field was pushed back by a chilly 9 mph wind.

The Dodgers loaded the bases in the seventh and drove Maddux out. But for the second day in a row, Chicago center fielder Corey Patterson caught a liner in center and fired a perfect strike to home plate for a double play. This time his peg nailed Brent Maye, who tried to bowl over Barrett.



Maddux

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# Bailey heads four Okinawa selections to All-Marine women's softball camp

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — All-Armed Forces outfielder Jamie Bailey is one of four Okinawa-based players selected to the All-Marine women's softball tryout camp Aug. 21-Sept. 12 at New River Air Station, N.C.

Bailey is joined by Elisa Bomer, Sue Ellen Dent and Heather Hardee, all vying for spots on the All-Marine team representing in the All-Armed Forces tournament Sept. 13-18 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Players chosen for the All-Armed Forces team move on to the Amateur Softball Association Class A nationals, Sept. 24-26 at Shreveport, La.

Bailey played on the All-Armed Forces team that finished second in the ASA national last year, after it won the national championship the previous two years.

The four women's All-Marine selections brings to 36 the num-

## Local briefs

ber of overseas players from the Air Force, Army and Marines picked for their respective tryout camps. The Navy has yet to announce its selections.

## Five to represent PACAF in Air Force marathon

Five airmen have been selected to the Pacific Air Forces team that will compete in the Air Force Marathon on Sept. 18 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, PACAF sports and fitness officials announced Wednesday.

Among the team's members is Donnie Gray, a staff sergeant with the 374th Communications Squadron at Yokota Air Base, who competed in but did not finish the 108th Boston Marathon in April.

Joining him are two airmen



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Jamie Bailey, an All-Armed Forces outfielder last year, has been selected to the All-Marine women's tryout camp Aug. 21-Sept. 12 at New River Air Station, N.C.

from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, John Barnett and Steve Mandell, and two from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, Sarah Tooley and Troy Davis.

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# Broussard's slam sparks Tribe

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Ben Broussard is getting used to jogging around the bases after hitting grand slams. The Cleveland Indians' slugger needs to work on his curtain call, though.

"That was my first one and it was awesome, but I had a tough time getting out there," he said. "The guys were all pounding me and I tripped."

Broussard hit his second grand slam in four days, this time as a pinch hitter, leading the Indians over the Toronto Blue Jays 6-2 on Thursday night.

"That was as big as anything Ben has done this year," manager Eric Wedge said.

Broussard has three slams this season, including a shot Monday against the Chicago White Sox. He's the fourth major leaguer with two pinch-hit slams in one season, joining Davey Johnson (1978), Mike Irie (1978) and Darryl Strawberry (1998).

His first slam came as a pinch hitter June 23 at Chicago.

After beginning the year 1-for-12 with the bases loaded, he is 6-for-9 with three homers and 21 RBIs in that situation.

"What a difference a year makes," he said. "Back then, it was, 'Oh, man, I've got to drive this guy in.' Now, I look at getting to pinch hit with the bases loaded as a great situation. It's fun."

Batting for Josh Phelps, Broussard connected off Vinny Chulk for his ninth homer to highlight a five-run seventh inning.

"I said to myself, 'Just try to get a big hit, I wasn't thinking home run,'" Broussard said. "I just relaxed and tried not to swing too hard."

Blue Jays starter Ted Lilly had a 2-1 lead

## AL Roundup

and got two quick outs in the seventh, but left after Ronnie Belliard's single. Reliever Kerry Ligtenberg (1-5) then walked Coco Crisp, Matt Lawton

and Casey Blake to force in a run. "The first two guys, I was trying to be too fine," Ligtenberg said. "After I got behind to Blake, I tried to throw it down the middle. It was one of those nights."

Chulk, who hadn't allowed a run in his seven previous appearances, came in and gave up Broussard's slam.

"The pressure is on the pitcher; he's got to throw strikes," Broussard said. "He challenged me with a fastball and I just hit it and ran."

The Indians won for the seventh time in eight games and stayed three games behind Minnesota in the AL Central. The Twins start a three-game series in Cleveland on Friday night.

David Ruske (6-2) pitched a scoreless seventh and Rafael Betancourt finished with two hitless innings.

Toronto got three hits in losing for the eighth time in nine games.

**Yankees 5, Rangers 1:** Orlando Hernandez won again with another excellent outing for the visiting Yankees and Miguel Cairo hit his first career grand slam.

Hernandez (5-0) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings and has a 2.08 ERA in seven starts since rejoining the rotation a month ago.

Scott Erickson (0-2) went 4 1/3 innings, allowing four runs on six hits with four walks.

**Orioles 6, Angels 1:** Melvin Mora hom-

ered and drove in three runs and Rodrigo Lopez (10-7) pitched seven innings as the visiting Orioles won for the ninth time in 10 games and ended Bartolo Colon's six-game winning streak.

Lopez won for the fourth time in his last five road starts, allowing a run and five hits.

Mora homered in the first inning against Colon and added a two-run single in the sixth against Brendan Donnelly.

Colon (11-9) gave up six runs, eight hits and walked a season-high six in 5 1/3 innings.

**Twins 6, Mariners 3:** Justin Morneau hit two homers and the visiting Twins snapped a four-game losing streak.

Johan Santana (12-6) pitched seven innings and Joe Nathan closed for his 33rd save.

Shannon Stewart hit a two-run triple and Morneau connected twice against Ryan Franklin (3-11), who lost his career-high seventh straight decision. Morneau had four RBIs.

Nathan, who struck out the side in the ninth, hasn't allowed a run in his last 26 appearances.

**White Sox 3, Royals 2:** Carl Everett and Ross Gload homered, and Freddy Garcia pitched six innings to lead host Chicago in a game delayed twice by rain for 2 hours, 20 minutes.

Garcia (10-9) gave up two runs, struck out seven and walked none. He is 6-2 in nine starts with the White Sox since being acquired from Seattle on June 27. Shingo Takatsu got his 10th save in 11 chances.

Jimmy Serrano (0-1) allowed three runs and four hits through six innings in his second major league start.



Ben Broussard is greeted by Omar Vizquel after hitting a grand slam against Toronto in the seventh inning on Thursday night.

AP

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AFES



# Giants ace Schmidt too much for Pirates

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jason Schmidt made sure the San Francisco Giants didn't need to use their bullpen.

That's the way he likes it.

Schmidt pitched a four-hitter with 11 strikeouts for his NL-leading 15th victory and the Giants beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-0 Thursday night. It was Schmidt's eighth career shutout and third of the season, accounting for all three of his complete games this year.

## NL Roundup

"That's your goal when you go out there to go the whole way," he said.

Schmidt (15-4) walked one against his former team and allowed only four singles — two by Rob Mackowiak. The right-hander struck out at least 10 for the third straight start and ninth time this season. He and Oakland's Mark Mulder are the only 15-game winners in the majors.

"When he's pitching, we have a feeling we're going to win," Giants manager Felipe Alou said. "There aren't very many good pitchers, not like that. I remember when I played for this team, when (Juan) Marichal was pitching, we knew we would win the game."

"We always played better, we always hit better, behind a guy like that." Edgardo Alfonzo, Marquis Grissom and Michael Tucker each drove in two runs to help the Giants avoid a season sweep by Pittsburgh, which won five of six between the teams this year. Barry Bonds had an RBI double.

Schmidt is 4-1 lifetime against the Pirates, who dealt him to San Francisco on

July 30, 2001. This was the first time Schmidt faced Ryan Vogelsong, one of the players in the deal, and it was a mismatch. Vogelsong (3-9), who lasted only five innings, hasn't won a home game since leaving Philadelphia on Opening Day. He allowed six hits and three runs.

**Padres 5, Cubs 4 (11):** Khalil Greene singled in Phil Nevin in the 11th as San Diego pulled within a game of host Chicago for the NL wild-card lead.

In the bottom half, Trevor Hoffman retired Moises Alou on a pop up with a runner on third for the final out.

Nomar Garciaparra hit a two-run homer for the Cubs.

**Braves 4, Brewers 2:** Jaret Wright earned his ninth straight victory, outpitching Ben Sheets to lead host Atlanta.

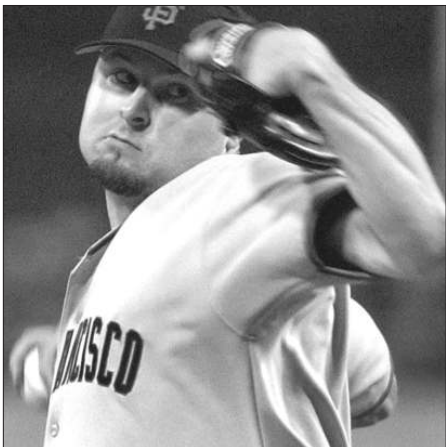
J.D. Drew, Andruw Jones and Johnny Estrada homered for the Braves. Sheets, among the league leaders in ERA and strikeouts, is 0-4 in six starts since the All-Star break.

**Rockies 3, Phillies 1:** Cory Lidle lost at home in his Phillies debut while Shawn Estes posted his fifth victory in a row.

Traded from Cincinnati on Monday, Lidle gave up two runs and three hits in five innings. Royce Clayton put Colorado ahead with a home run in the third inning and Estes made it stand up in his 13th win.

**Expos 7, Diamondbacks 5:** Tony Batista hit his 20th homer and drove in four runs as host Montreal won its fifth straight and Arizona lost its seventh in a row.

The Expos finished 6-0 against Arizona this year, the first time the Diamondbacks had been swept in a season series of at least six games.



San Francisco's Jason Schmidt throws a pitch during the third inning of his 7-0 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Thursday night. Schmidt won his NL-leading 15th game.

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Baltimore	55	58	.487
Tampa Bay	61	47	.567
Minnesota	61	55	.523
Cleveland	57	55	.509
Chicago	53	61	.465
Detroit	47	67	.410

West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Oakland	50	56	.469
Anaheim	63	52	.548
Seattle	47	67	.410
Seattle	43	77	.371

Thursday's games			
Boston, 6 Tampa Bay	1-0	W	3-0
Los Angeles, 3 Kansas City	2-1	W	3-0
Detroit, 5 Oakland	1-0	W	3-0
Minnesota, 6 Seattle	3-2	W	3-0
Cleveland, 5 Toronto	2-1	W	3-0
N.Y. Yankees, 5 Texas	1-0	W	3-0

Friday's games			
Baltimore at Toronto			
Chicago White Sox at Boston			
Los Angeles at Seattle			
Tampa Bay at Anaheim			
Los Angeles at Oakland			

Saturday's games			
Baltimore (Baltimore) at Toronto (Toronto)	1-0	W	3-0
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Los Angeles (Los Angeles) at Seattle (Seattle)	1-0	W	3-0

Sunday's games			
Baltimore at Toronto			
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Monday's games			
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Members of the Iraqi delegation wave as they enter the stadium during Friday's opening ceremony in Athens.

## Games: Long, bumpy road winds up at Athens' lavish opening ceremony

GAMES, FROM BACK PAGE

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge urged athletes to "show us that sport unites by overriding national, political, religious and language barriers."

"We need peace, we need tolerance, we need brotherhood," he said.

At dusk, a countdown video filled the screen at the Olympic Stadium — whose new weblike canopy was bolted into place only last month. The numbers clicked down from 28: one second for each of the Games scheduled since the first modern Olympiad in an all-marble arena in central Athens. Each tick of the clock was accompanied by the amplified sound of a human heartbeat.

Then, with a blast of fireworks above the stadium roof, the ceremony was fully under way. Minutes later, the five Olympic rings were ablaze.

"We did it! We did it!" chanted a group of flag-waving Greeks in the stands.

A round-the-clock work blitz — under broiling sun and blinding spotlights — managed to pull together the vast network of venues, transport links, villages and security needed for the athletes and heads of state at the first Summer Games since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

A sign of the security measures floated overhead — a blimp with supersensitive spyware. Outside the stadium sat symbols of the delays — dirt expanses instead of landscaped paths, idle cranes and trees planted just last week.

Earlier, an International Olympic Committee member who helped oversee the preparations noted how much was at stake if the Greeks failed the task.

"I think you have saved Greece and saved the IOC from great humiliation," Alex Glydoy told Athens organizers.



Wrestler Rulon Gardner files into the stadium with the U.S. contingent. Gardner went from obscurity to celebrity by beating once-invincible Russian Alexander Karelin in the 2000 Sydney Games.

The spectacle of the opening ceremony — tradition mixed with Las Vegas-style fanfare — celebrated Greek history, culture and civilization.

After the burning Olympic flames subsided, a boy on a replica of a ship sailed into the arena, waving a small Greek flag. Then the centaur — the mythological half-man, half-horse — waded into the water and tossed a spear of light representing a javelin. From the center of the stadium rose a statue representing an ancient form from Greece's Cyclades islands. The form broke apart to reveal other figures from Greek history.

The ancient god of love, Eros, flew above two lovers dancing and playing in the water. Then Eros hovered over a procession of figures from Greek history — from ancient vase paintings to a tribute to the Greek shepherd,

Sprios Louis, who won the first Olympic marathon.

"The great moment has come!" cried the announcer in the stadium. Moments later, the parade of nations began with the appearance of Greek weightlifter Pyrrhos Dimas, who is seeking his fourth consecutive gold medal in the Games.

Behind him more than 10,500 athletes streamed into the stadium.

There was huge applause for Afghanistan on its return to Olympic competition after an eight-year absence and with its first female athletes. Coach Nina Suratger, in a shimmering green robe and head scarf, carried the flag.

The entrance of the more than 500-member U.S. team — led by basketball guard Dawn Staley — drew cheers. But some people also stood and put their thumbs down in an apparent show of displeasure for the war in Iraq. Moments later, the Iraqis entered to a roaring ovation.

The Chinese team was led by 7-foot-6 Yao Ming, who towered over even other basketball giants in the main stadium field.

Paraguay carried a banner that read "From Horror to Hope" in apparent reference to the super-market fire that killed nearly 400 people earlier this month.

For nearly two hours, the teams filed along a black walkway into the stadium: Russians in '20s-style white outfits, first-time Olympians from the tiny Pacific nation of Kiribati in woven grass costumes, Tajik female athletes in gold headscarves, women from Moldova in hot pink pantsuits, and men from Burundi dancing with spears.

Greece, because of its links to the ancient Games, entered first, as usual. But, as the host nation, the more than 40 Greek athletes also were the last into the stadium — walking single file as the crowd chanted "Hellas, Hellas," as the country is called in Greek.

## Greek stars involved in doping controversy

### Sprinters Kenteris, Thanou face allegations they dodged drug test

By LISA ORKIN  
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Greece's biggest star might drop out of the Athens Games after missing a drug test, shaming the host nation as it opened its first Olympics in more than a century.

Greece's Olympic Committee will meet Saturday to discuss the bizarre case of sprinter Kostas Kenteris, the 200-meter Olympic champion who is accused of dodging a drug test and was later hospitalized after a motorcycle crash.

A source within the committee, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that one topic of the meeting will be whether Kenteris should withdraw from the Games.

Even if he drops out, the International Olympic Committee probably will proceed with its doping case against him. A hearing was set for Monday.

Kenteris and fellow Greek sprinter Katerina Thanou were in a motorcycle wreck Thursday night just hours after drug testers failed to find them in the Olympic village.

Kenteris and Thanou, the 100-meter silver medalist in Sydney, are due to remain in KAT hospital over the weekend, so the IOC delayed a Friday hearing in their case. They were in stable condition with cuts and bruises.

Christos Tsikos, the sprinters' coach, said it was not clear whether they will be healthy enough to compete in the Games. The track competition begins Aug. 20.

IOC President Jacques Rogge insisted the Olympics will not be tarnished by the scandal.

The Games are much stronger than individuals," he said. "We have had widely publicized doping cases before. They have not damaged the image of the games."

Rogge said the IOC's medical director, Patrick Schumacher, went to the hospital near the main stadium complex on Friday to give the sprinters a written summons to attend the disciplinary hearing.

The athletes did not appear. Greek Olympic team leader Yiannis Papadogiannakis attended on their behalf and asked for the postponement.

The news dominated Athens headlines and overshadowed TV coverage of the Olympic flame as it headed for the opening ceremony, during which Kenteris had been expected to light the cauldron.

"A Showdown Is Cast Over the Big Celebration," an Athens daily newspaper proclaimed. The front-page headline on another demanded: "Tell Us the Truth."

"There is only one way to say it: Big shame for us," said Officer George Minatis, who was directing traffic headed to the Olympic Stadium. "It's all anybody talks



Greek sprinters Kostas Kenteris, left, and Katerina Thanou, right, were hospitalized Friday with injuries from a motorcycle accident hours before a hearing on whether they intentionally dodged drug testers.

about — that, and not the opening ceremony.

"Now I would like to see him run," Minatis added, "so we could boo him."

Kenteris, a surprise winner in the Sydney Games, was considered Greece's best hope for a gold medal in track in Athens. But he has a history of being hard to find for drug tests and rarely runs in international competitions outside the games.

IOC medical commission chairman Arne Ljungqvist said drug testers unsuccessfully tried to find Kenteris and Thanou a few days ago in Chicago, where they had been training with Tsikos. Nick Davies, spokesman for the International Association of Athletics Federations, said the sprinters changed plans and traveled to Essen, Germany, to see a doctor.

When Kenteris and Thanou arrived in Athens on Thursday, an IOC doping-control official went to the Olympic village to test them but couldn't find them.

The head of the Greek track team, Yiannis Stamatopoulos, said the athletes left the village to collect personal belongings from home. He said they were there for an extension to take the drug tests.

Tsikos said they had their cell phones turned off and didn't know they were being sought.

"There was no intention from the Hellenic Olympic Committee to hide anything," Papadogiannakis told state-run NCT television.

"If there has been some kind of misunderstanding, that's something different. Many athletes leave the Olympic village for many reasons, to enjoy themselves."

The IOC's Anti-Doping Rules for these games say doping violations include "refusing, or failing without compelling justification, to submit to sample collection after notification."

Such a violation may lead to ineligibility. Any sanction can be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which has set up a tribunal in Athens.

## SPORTS



Rain washes out qualifying at Watkins Glen, could delay Burton's Chevrolet debut, Page 38

# Homecoming Games

## Summer Olympics open in ancient home of Athens

BY BRIAN MURPHY  
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — With five rings ablaze in the middle of a manmade sea, the Olympics returned to their birthplace Friday in an epic homecoming heralded by a pounding heartbeat, a mythological centaur and an array of Greek gods followed by the biggest parade of nations in the Games' history.

"The Olympic Games: Welcome back to Greece!" an announcer cried to kick off the opening ceremony, which culminated with

the Greek windsurfing champion from the 1996 Games, Nikolaos Kaklamanakis, lighting the cauldron at the end of a slender 102-foot arm that rose slowly over one end of the stadium.

It was a moment many doubted Greek organizers could pull off, after years of worrisome delays and constant pressure to bolster the most expensive security network ever in an

Olympics.

The ceremony also closed an important circle in sports, from the Games' innocent rebirth in 1896 to the latest gathering of the world's greatest athletes under 202 flags in an age beset by fears of terrorism and instability.

"Greece is standing before you. We are ready. ... We have waited long for this moment," said the Games' chief organizer, Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, standing under an model of an olive tree.

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Women's basketball player Dawn Staley carries the flag for the delegation from the U.S.



The Olympic rings are shown in flames in a pool of water during the opening ceremony of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens on Friday. The Games run through Aug. 29.



An unidentified French athlete, left, marches in the Friday's ceremony, which comprised 10,500 athletes from 202 countries.

"Greece is standing before you. We are ready. ... We have waited long for this moment," said the Games' chief organizer, Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki.



Els, Clarke lead; Woods in danger of missing cut in PGA Championship

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Tomlinson to become highest-paid RB in NFL

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Broussard comes through in pinch for Indians

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## Sprinters shame host country as Games open Page 47

